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BOOKS

Education For All Global Monitoring Report 2010 - Reaching the marginalized


525 pp. 12.0 MB (!):

Education systems in many of the world's poorest countries are now experiencing the aftershock of the global economic downturn. The report argues that the crisis could create a lost generation of children whose life chances will have been irreparably damaged by a failure to protect their right to education. The Report examines who these children are and why they are being left behind, and shows that the cost of providing Education for All is much higher than previously estimated. The report looks at concrete solutions for making sure that no children are excluded from schooling.

* * *

Measuring Gender Inequality in Africa: Experiences and Lessons from the African Gender and Development Index


262 pp. 1.9 MB:
http://www.uneca.org/eca_resources/Publications/books/awr/AWR09_FIN.pdf

The report is based on the results of piloting the African Gender and Development Index in 12 African countries across the five sub-regions of the continent. Making a case for countries to invest in sex disaggregated data collection, the outcomes provide an indication of the general situation of women across the continent. It provides a gender-responsive definition of accountability and focuses on the key elements that are required to 'make accountability work' for women.

* * *

Human Rights Watch World Report 2010

Edited by: Ian Gorvin, Iain Levine, Andrew Mawson et al.

624 pp. 3.7 MB:
http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/wr2010_0.pdf

The report summarizes major human rights trends in more than 90 nations and territories worldwide, reflecting the extensive investigative work carried out in 2009 by Human Rights Watch staff. The volume's introductory essay argues that the ability of the human rights movement to exert pressure on behalf of victims has grown enormously in recent years, and that this development has spawned a reaction from abusive governments
that grew particularly intense in 2009.  

**State of the World’s Indigenous Peoples**

by Joji Carino, Duane Champagne, Neva Collings et al.
UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) - Division for Social Policy and Development, January 2010

250 pp. 2.9 MB:

There are over 370 million indigenous people in some 90 countries, living in all regions of the world. The situation of indigenous peoples in many parts of the world is critical today. Poverty rates are significantly higher among indigenous peoples compared to other groups. While they constitute 5 per cent of the world’s population, they are 15 per cent of the world’s poor. Although the state of the world’s indigenous peoples is alarming, there is some cause for optimism.

**Epidemiology and Prevention of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases**

11th edition

by W. Atkinson, S. Wolfe, J. Hamborsky, L. McIntyre, eds.
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, May 2009

Table of Contents (12 pp. 1.0 MB):

Download chapter by chapter as PDF files > 350 pp. at:

Appendices:
[http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/Pubs/pinkbook/pink-appendx.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/Pubs/pinkbook/pink-appendx.htm)

The Pink Book provides physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, and others with the most comprehensive information on vaccine-preventable diseases.

**Immunology and Evolution of Infectious Disease**

by Steven A. Frank

359 pp. 2.2 MB:

From HIV to influenza, the battle between infectious agents and the immune system is at the heart of disease. Knowledge of how and why parasites vary to escape recognition by the immune system is central to vaccine design, the control of epidemics, and our fundamental understanding of parasite ecology and evolution. The book is essential reading to understand why infections cause disease.
AIDS Denialism and Public Health Practice

by Pride Chigwedere and M. Essex
AIDS and Behavior, Published online 8 January 2010

In this paper, the authors respond to AIDS denialist arguments that HIV does not cause AIDS, that antiretroviral drugs are not useful, and that there is no evidence of large-scale deaths from AIDS, and discuss the key implications of the relationship between AIDS denialism and public health practice. They provide a brief history of how the cause of AIDS was investigated, of how HIV fulfills Koch’s postulates and Sir Bradford Hill’s criteria for causation, and of the inconsistencies in alternatives offered by denialists.

* * *

Concurrent sexual partnerships and the spread of HIV - ‘the evidence is limited’

by Roger Pebody
aidsmap news, December 22, 2009

Read online at:

The theory that multiple, overlapping sexual partnerships are a key driver of generalised HIV epidemics in Africa has been attacked as being based on insubstantial evidence. The critics, writing in the journals AIDS and Behavior and The Lancet, argue that researchers lack a precise definition of concurrency or a standard way to measure it, and that the data do not show a significant association between concurrency and either HIV incidence or prevalence.

* * *

Provider-initiated HIV testing for paediatric inpatients and their caretakers is feasible and acceptable

by Rhoda K. Wanyenze, Cecilia Nawavvu, Joseph Ouma et al.
Tropical Medicine and International Health, Vol. 15 No. 1 pp 113-119, January 2010

Early diagnosis of HIV-infected children remains a major challenge in Africa. Children who are hospitalised represent an opportunity for HIV diagnosis and appropriate treatment. The authors introduced HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) for hospitalised children and their caretakers in Mulago teaching hospital in Uganda to assess its feasibility. HCT identified a significant number of HIV infected children and caretakers. More than half of the children had advanced HIV disease. More intensive efforts are needed to ensure earlier diagnosis and linkage to care for HIV infected children.
**Highly active antiretroviral treatment for the prevention of HIV transmission**

Reuben Granich, Siobhan Crowley, Marco Vitoria et al.


29 pp. 174 kB: [http://www.jiasociety.org/content/pdf/1758-2652-13-1.pdf](http://www.jiasociety.org/content/pdf/1758-2652-13-1.pdf)

Building on previous modelling work, the authors used an HIV/AIDS epidemic of South African intensity to explore the impact of testing all adults annually and starting persons on highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) immediately after they are diagnosed as HIV positive. This theoretical strategy would reduce annual HIV incidence and mortality to less than one case per 1000 people within 10 years and it would reduce the prevalence of HIV to less than 1% within 50 years.

***

**Further benefits by early start of HIV treatment in low income countries: survival estimates of early versus deferred antiretroviral therapy**

by Kjell Arne Johansson, Bjarne Robberstad and Ole Frithjof Norheim

AIDS Research and Therapy 2010, 7:3 (16 January 2010)

25 pp. 207 kB: [http://www.aidsrestherapy.com/content/pdf/1742-6405-7-3.pdf](http://www.aidsrestherapy.com/content/pdf/1742-6405-7-3.pdf)

International HIV guidelines have recently shifted from a medium-late to an early-start treatment strategy. As a consequence, more people will be eligible to Highly Active Anti-retroviral Therapy (HAART). This study demonstrates that HIV patients live longer with early start strategies in low income countries. Since low income countries have many constraints to full coverage of HAART, this study provides input to a more transparent debate regarding where to draw explicit eligibility criteria during further scale up of HAART.

***

**Antiretroviral (ARV) Therapy in Resource Poor Countries: What do we Need in Real Life?**

by Francesco Castelli, Virginio Pietra, Ismael Diallo et al.

The Open AIDS Journal, 2010, 4, 28-32


Significant progresses have been made in the last 5 years towards the ultimate goal to provide universal access to care for all HIV/AIDS patients needing antiretroviral treatment in resource-poor countries. However, many barriers are still to be overcome. While the universal access to HIV care is crucial in developing countries, a strong emphasis on prevention should be maintained along.
Male Circumcision at Different Ages in Rwanda: A Cost-Effectiveness Study

by Agnes Binagwaho, Elisabetta Pegurri, Jane Muita, Stefano Bertozzi

[210x66]HESP-News & Notes - 02/2010 - page 8

There is strong evidence showing that male circumcision (MC) reduces HIV infection and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The authors predict that circumcision of newborn boys would be effective and cost-saving as a long-term strategy to prevent HIV in Rwanda.

Neonatal Circumcision for HIV Prevention: Cost, Culture, and Behavioral Considerations

by Seth C. Kalichman

Male circumcision (MC) offers one of the few available effective HIV prevention interventions. Lifetime protection against HIV, and therefore reductions in population levels of HIV/AIDS, can be realized when circumcision occurs prior to sexual debut. The cost-savings of neonatal MC are compelling and suggest that implementation is economically feasible in developing countries hit hardest by HIV/AIDS. Neonatal MC should therefore be considered a priority in comprehensive HIV prevention plans for southern Africa.

Integrating gender into HIV/AIDS programmes in the health sector: Tool to improve responsiveness to women’s needs

by Avni Amin, Claudia Garcia-Moreno, Sonali Johnson et al.
World Health Organization, 2009

This tool helps programme managers and health-care providers in the public and private sectors integrate gender into HIV/AIDS programmes they wish to set up, implement and evaluate so they are more responsive to women’s needs. The tool also provides examples of gender-responsive interventions from the field, and resources such as: counseling role plays for risk reduction and HIV treatment adherence; examples of gender-sensitive communication messages; and protocols for addressing the risk of violence among women as a result of HIV status disclosure.
**Responding to the HIV-related needs of MSM in Africa**
A guide to facilitating a consultation workshop with stakeholders

by Jane Shepherd
International HIV/AIDS Alliance, December 2009

[64 pp. 1.7 MB: http://www.aidsalliance.org/includes/Publication/HIV-Related_needs_of_MSM_in_Africa.pdf](http://www.aidsalliance.org/includes/Publication/HIV-Related_needs_of_MSM_in_Africa.pdf)

This guide has been produced for people who want to improve the response to the HIV-related needs of men who have sex with men (MSM) in Africa. The guide will help you to facilitate a participatory reflection meeting with key stakeholders who are responsible for improving local and national responses to HIV among MSM. The guide provides a set of activities for you to be able to facilitate this meeting together with basic information to increase understanding about MSM and, in particular, MSM and the HIV epidemic.

***

**The Challenge of AIDS-Related Malignancies in Sub-Saharan Africa**

by Annie J. Sasco, Antoine Jaquet, Emilie Boidin et al.


With the lengthening of life expectancy among HIV-positive subjects related to the use of highly active antiretroviral treatments, an increased risk of cancer has been described in industrialized countries. The question is to determine what occurs now and will happen in the future in the low income countries and particularly in sub-Saharan Africa where more than two-thirds of all HIV-positive people live in the world. This paper reviews the link between HIV and cancer in sub-Saharan Africa, putting it in perspective with what is already known in Western countries.

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**Sexual & Reproductive Health**

**Training and Reference Guides for Family Planning Screening Checklists**
(2nd edition)

Family Health International, 2009


The checklists are a series of five publications designed for programme managers, administrators, trainers, and service providers interested in learning how to use the Screening Checklists for Family Planning Services to screen women wishing to initiate use of combined oral contraceptives, injectables (DMPA and NET-EN), the copper intrauterine device (IUD), and implants. The fifth guide trains providers to use the Pregnancy Checklist “How to Be Reasonably Sure a Client Is Not Pregnant”.

***
Reducing Future Carbon Emissions by Investing in Family Planning

by Thomas Wire
London School of Economics, Operational Research, August 2009

45 pp. 285 kB:  
http://www.optimumpopulation.org/reducingemissions.pdf

The basic tenet of this project is that fewer people will emit fewer tonnes of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The study estimates the cost-effectiveness of providing global access to basic family planning (as a major method of population growth reduction) in reducing future CO₂ emissions between 2010 and 2050. From the cost-benefit analysis, it has been found that family planning (considered purely as a method of reducing future CO₂ emissions) is more cost-effective than most low-carbon technologies.

***

Platform for Action: Towards the Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C)

A matter of gender equality

The Donors Working Group on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting, 2008

6 pp. 202 kB:  
http://www.saynotoviolence.org/sites/default/files/Platform_for_Action_FGMC_en.pdf

The Donors Working Group on FGM/C (DWG) has since 2001 brought together key governmental and intergovernmental organizations and foundations committed to supporting the abandonment of FGM/C. The group has reached a consensus on a common programmatic approach to support the abandonment of the practice and make a major difference for girls and women worldwide. This Platform for Action summarizes its elements.

***

Hivos’ role in LGBT emancipation in southern Africa 1995 - 2006

Synthesis Report

by Sarita Ranchod & Sonja Boezak
Humanist Institute for Development Co-operation (Hivos), October 2007

136 pp. 1.2 MB:  

This report covers findings of a large-scale evaluative research process exploring efforts towards Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Emancipation in Southern Africa. It covers 7 countries (Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe) over a 12 year period from a rights-based perspective. It is the only known piece of research of this scope (geography and time) on this issue.

***

Engaging the Poor on Family Planning as a Poverty Reduction Strategy

by Imelda Zosa-Feranil, Cynthia P. Green, and Laurette Cucuzza

HESP-News & Notes - 02/2010 - page 10
Policies and programs that combine poverty reduction and family planning (FP), as well as engage the poor, can increase the effects of both initiatives. This report is designed to provide information to national and local leaders and policy champions on the potential contribution of family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH) programs to poverty reduction programs and to suggest ways to engage the poor in the policy process.

* * *

**A Closer Examination of the HIV/Fertility Linkage**

by Stacy E. Sneeringer and Trevon Logan

46 pp. 254 kB:  

This paper provides a synopsis of the mechanisms relating HIV to fertility, attempting to describe their relative importance in affecting larger fertility trends. The authors discuss what outcome measures would be impacted by the different mechanisms, and suggest methods on how to study whether HIV plays a significant role in fertility trends.

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**Maternal & Child Health**

**Evaluating quality of obstetric care in low-resource settings: Building on the literature to design tailor-made evaluation instruments - an illustration in Burkina Faso**

by Florence Morestin, Abel Bicaba, Jean de Dieu Serme and Pierre Fournier
BMC Health Services Research 2010, 10:20 (20 January 2010)

30 pp. 225 kB:  

There are many instruments available freely for evaluating obstetric care quality in low-resource settings. However, this profusion can be confusing; moreover, evaluation instruments need to be adapted to local issues. In this article, the authors present tools they developed to guide the choice of instruments and describe how they used them in Burkina Faso to facilitate the participative development of a locally adapted instrument.

* * *

**Why the G8 Matters to Children**

by Garth Luke and Heather Elliott
World Vision International Policy & Advocacy, March 2009

12 pp. 426 kB:  
This is a World Vision's policy call to the 2009 G8 Summit which includes information on the progress of child and maternal mortality. It also reports how maternal and child deaths can be prevented by proven and cost-effective interventions at community and district levels. The report also provides an update on current and future prospects of the MDGs.

Promoting development, integrating young people: Good practices from the children and youth sector

by Susanne M. Müller, Tina Silbernagl, Yvonne Oswald et al.
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH, October 2009

74 pp. 1.3 MB:
http://www2.gtz.de/dokumente/bib/gtz2009-0517en-integrating-young.pdf

The sector project, “Implementation of Children and Youth Rights”, wants to integrate the experiences that have been accumulated from the work on children and youth policy and structures to promote youth, into the dialogue and exchanges. A selection of successful projects from the fields of health, employment, violence prevention, participation and children’s rights are presented as case studies and success factors from the lessons learned in the projects related to the respective area are derived.

Malnutrition: How Much is Being Spent?
An analysis of nutrition funding flows 2004-2007

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), Campaign for Access to Essential Medicines, November 2009

15 pp. 608 kB:

Malnutrition is an urgent humanitarian emergency that contributes to the deaths of 3.5 to 5 million children under five each year. The report documents that international donor funding flows have remained flat and insufficient since 2000 and makes a plea to donors, recipient countries, and international organizations to increase their commitments considerably. In addition, the report shows only 1.7% of emergency food aid actually addresses nutritional needs. MSF recommends that interventions target nutrition if the scourge of malnutrition is to be reduced.

Malaria

Towards malaria elimination - a new thematic series

by Marcel Tanner and Marcel Hommel

9 pp. 107 kB:
The launch of a new thematic series of Malaria Journal - “Towards malaria elimination” - creates the forum that allows carrying scientific evidence on how to achieve malaria elimination in specific endemic settings and conditions into the circles of scientists, public health specialists, national and global programme managers, funders and decision makers.

**Liberia: Malaria Indicator Survey 2009**


143 pp. 1.0 MB:

In order to determine the progress made in malaria control and prevention in Liberia since 2005, the 2009 Liberia Malaria Indicator Survey (LMIS) was designed to provide data on key malaria indicators including mosquito net ownership and use, as well as prompt and effective treatment with ACT.

**NetMark 2008 Household Survey on Insecticide-Treated Nets (ITNs) in Ghana**

Carol Baume, Celeste Marin, Ana Franca Koh et al.
AED NetMark Project, September 2009

84 pp. 1.9 MB:

NetMark aims both to develop a sustainable commercial market to create a steady supply of Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs), and to ensure that vulnerable groups have access to free or subsidized ITNs through voucher programs. This document reports the proportion of households owning nets of different treatment status. It also reports on the proportion of nets that are of different treatment status.

**Assessment of a national voucher scheme to deliver insecticide-treated mosquito nets to pregnant women**

by Tanya Marchant, David Schellenberg, Rose Nathan et al.
Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) 11 January 2010

5 pp. 141 kB:

The benefits of a health-related intervention may be compromised by the challenges of delivering the intervention on a large scale. The authors analyzed the process involved in the Tanzania National Voucher Scheme. They conclude that delivery of nets treated with long-lasting insecticide rather than untreated nets packaged with an insecticide-treatment kit could result in an improvement in coverage of 22 percentage points, from 30% to 52%.
Factors associated with use and non-use of mosquito nets owned in Oromia and Amhara Regional States, Ethiopia

by Carol A Baume, Richard Reithinger and Sara Woldehanna
Malaria Journal 2009, 8:264 (23 November 2009)

11 pp. 268 kB:
http://www.malariajournal.com/content/pdf/1475-2875-8-264.pdf

The objective of the study was to investigate insecticide-treated net (ITN) use and factors related to use of ITNs owned. The very high ITN ownership in the study areas suggests that a strategy targeting free nets to rural and poor households combined with support for the commercial sector is an effective means of achieving high coverage.

Ethiopia Bednet Utilization Study: Why some nets owned are not used

Bereket Menna, Bereket Menna, Tegene Sewnet et al.
Academy for Educational Development, October 2007

25 pp. 2.3 MB:

This study looks at household net ownership and use in the Oromia and Amhara Regions since insecticide-treated nets (ITNs) have been made widely available, in order to determine levels of ownership and use, and to understand reasons for non-use or sporadic use. This information is essential for refining ITN distribution programs and for developing effective communication for optimal net use and public health impact.

Tuberculosis

DetecTB study shows intensified case finding can reduce burden of TB within community with high HIV prevalence

by Theo Smart
HIV & AIDS Treatment in Practice, Issue 152, January 14, 2010

2 pp. 264 kB:

Going into communities to actively screen for tuberculosis (TB) can uncover a very large number of TB cases in settings with a high prevalence of HIV - and within a couple years, reduces the community’s burden of TB, according to the DetecTB study conducted in Harare, Zimbabwe and presented as a late breaker at the 40th Union World Conference on Lung Health held in Cancún, Mexico in December 2009.

Other Infectious Diseases

Control of Visceral Leishmaniasis in Latin America - A Systematic Review
Elimination of zoonotic Visceral Leishmaniasis (VL) in the Americas does not seem a realistic goal at this point given the lack of political commitment, gaps in scientific knowledge, and the weakness of case management and surveillance systems. Research priorities and current strategies should be reviewed with the aim of achieving better VL control.

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**Increasing Trends of Leptospirosis in Northern India: A Clinico-Epidemiological Study**

by Sunil Sethi, Navneet Sharma, Nandita Kakkar et al.


7 pp. 326 kB: [PDF](http://www.plosntds.org/article/fetchObjectAttachment.action?uri=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pntd.0000579&representation=PDF)

Leptospirosis is often not suspected by physicians in patients with acute febrile illnesses reporting from supposedly “non-endemic areas,” including north India. Clinical manifestations are protean, and complications can affect most organ systems, including liver, kidneys, lungs, and the central nervous system. Timely diagnosis and specific therapy can reduce severity of illness and, in turn, mortality.

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**Infection control during filoviral hemorrhagic fever outbreaks: preferences of community members and health workers in Masindi, Uganda**

by Vanessa N. Raabe, Imaam Mutyabac, Paul Roddyd et al.

Transactions of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 104 (2010) 48-50, January 2010

3 pp. 406 kB: [PDF](http://fieldresearch.msf.org/msf/bitstream/10144/90161/1/Raabe%20-%20Infection%20control%20FHF%20Outbreak.pdf)

Interviews were conducted with health workers and community members in Masindi, Uganda on improving the acceptability of infection control measures used during an Ebola outbreak. Measures that promote cultural sensitivity and transparency of control activities were preferred and should be employed in future control efforts. The authors suggest assessing the practicality of body bags with viewing windows, and face shields with or without chin protectors, in future outbreaks.

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**Socioeconomic aspects of neglected tropical diseases**

by Lesong Conteh, Thomas Engels and David H Molyneux

Although many examples of highly cost-effective interventions to control neglected tropical diseases exist, our understanding of the full economic effect that these diseases have on individuals, households, and nations needs to be improved to target interventions more effectively and equitably. The authors review data for the effect of neglected tropical diseases on a population’s health and economy. They also present evidence on the costs, cost-effectiveness, and financing of strategies to monitor, control, or reduce morbidity and mortality associated with these diseases.

### Essential Medicines

**Being sick and needing medicines is a costly misfortune in many countries – A one day snapshot of a medicine’s price across 93 countries**

Health Action International (HAI), 2009

Health Action International (HAI) undertook a one day global ‘snapshot’ of the price of ciprofloxacin. Ciprofloxacin is a broad spectrum antibacterial used to treat various common infections, with a usual adult dose of 250-750 mg twice daily for up to 14 days. The price a patient would pay for a course of the originator brand product in the private sector was highest in Colombia at more than 200 times the price in 5 Asian countries where the price of generics was lowest - a difference of almost 20,000%. An interactive map reporting the price data is on HAI’s website: [http://www.haiweb.org/medicineprices](http://www.haiweb.org/medicineprices), where prices of the lowest priced generics can also be viewed.

* * *

**Access to pain treatment as a human right**

by Diederik Lohman, Rebecca Schleifer and Joseph J Amon
BMC Medicine 2010, 8:8 (20 January 2010)

Almost five decades ago, governments around the world adopted the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs which, in addition to addressing the control of illicit narcotics, obligated countries to work towards universal access to the narcotic drugs necessary to alleviate pain and suffering. Yet, despite the existence of inexpensive and effective pain relief medicines, tens of millions of people around the world continue to suffer from moderate to severe pain each year without treatment.

* * *

**Keeping it Real - Combating the spread of fake drugs in poor countries**

by Julian Harris, Philip Stevens, Julian Morris
International Policy Network, May 2009
Up to a third of medicines in poor countries are counterfeit, according to the UK’s Department for International Development, while surveys in poor parts of the world show up to half of medicines are fakes. The root causes of the scourge of fake drugs must be understood in order to tackle the problem. Fortunately a new wave of technologies can protect the identity of high quality medicines, and are sufficiently complex to make counterfeiting economically unviable.

**Social Security**

*Innovations in Insuring the Poor*

Edited by Ruth Vargas Hill and Maximo Torero
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), December 2009

This set of briefs considers how to increase the tools available to poor households to manage agricultural and health risks. The focus is how to develop insurance markets, along with other financial instruments such as credit, savings, and social protection policies. Breaking the link between risk and poverty by insuring poor people both lessens the affliction of poverty and allows poor people to participate in income growth.

***

*Promoting Savings as a Tool for International Development*

by Jamie M. Zimmerman and Shweta S. Banerjee
New America Foundation, October 2009

Scholars, policymakers, and practitioners of microfinance are increasingly turning their focus toward devising and offering effective and accessible savings services for the poor. In fact, not only have experts argued that demand for savings services greatly exceeds that of microcredit, but many also contend that savings-led programs and products, with a focus on building assets, may be more effective than credit in providing a pathway out of poverty.

***

*Protecting the Special Health Needs of Women*

MicroInsurance Innovation Facility - International Labour Organization, 2009

Despite their essential role in administering family health, women are often not considered as a primary beneficiary for Microinsurance. Providers tend to focus on male breadwinners as the main target for enrolment campaigns and policies design. If health
microinsurance is to become a valuable option to protect the livelihoods and health of low-income women, its design and delivery has to overcome many challenges.

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**Developing a Cost-Benefit Analysis Tool: Experiences and Lessons from Malawi and Mozambique**

by Nick Walden, Estelle Berger, Laura Meissner et al.
The SEEP Network and Opportunity International, 2009


This case study shares the experience of Opportunity International in designing a cost-benefit analysis tool to evaluate and compare microfinance delivery channels. It chronicles the tool’s design and analysis features, the challenges faced, and offers practical experience to other microfinance institutions looking to design similar tools.

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**Sector Strategy on Social Protection**

Edited by Judith Schwethelm, Stefanie Ruff, Jutta Wagner
German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, July 2009


The objective of German development policy in the area of social protection is to support partner countries in protecting all parts of the population – especially the poor – against all relevant risks. The measures that are financially supported mainly fall under the priority areas as agreed upon with the respective partner country: sustainable economic development, health, good governance and rural development.

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**Microfinance Programmes & the Poor: Whom Are They Reaching? Evidence from Ghana**

by Joseph Kimos Adjei and Thankom Arun
Brooks World Poverty Institute, January 2009


This paper examines the type of poor people served by one of the leading microfinance institutions in Ghana. By comparing the living standards of clients of Sinapi Aba Trust (SAT) with those of non-clients, representing the general population in its operational areas, the paper concludes that the microfinance institution reaches disproportionately a smaller percentage of very poor people. The study notes that programme placement plays a key role in determining the type of clients reached by SAT, since almost all its branches are located in urban centres.
Social Protection of Migrants from the Global South: Protection gaps and strategies to ‘self-insure’

Development Research Centre on Migration, Globalisation and Poverty (Migration DRC), October 2008

4 pp. 654 kB:  

Although people who migrate across international borders have diverse profiles and needs, the Migration DRC has identified four essential components of social protection for international migrants. These include access to social security programmes in host countries, the portability of earned benefits (such as pensions), labour market conditions in host countries, and migrant social support networks.

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Pensions in Crisis: Europe and Central Asia Regional Policy Note

by Anita Schwarz, Ufuk Guven, Richard Hinz et al.  
The World Bank, Human Development Sector Unit, November 2009

25 pp. 275 kB:  

The financial crisis has had significant impacts on pension systems in the Europe and Central Asia region (ECA), tempting governments to make policy changes in response to the increased pension deficits they are facing. This paper argues that, due to the continued ageing demographic transition in the region, the worst is yet to come. Future pension system deficits are expected to be threefold what is currently being experienced in the worst hit countries and are expected to remain at that level for more than 20 years before slightly improving.

Human Resources

Translating information into health policy

10 years of the Observatory of Human Resources for Health in the Americas  

by Félix Rígoli, Mónica Padilla, Allison Foster and Jose Paranaguá de Santana  

2 pp. 126 kB:  

The political mandate of ‘Health for All’ has always been hampered by problems with human resources. Even in a well-financed health system, the availability of ‘the right people, in the right places, with the right skills’ is a crucial challenge. This is because having the right health workforce depends on sound, long-term policies, based on good information and people’s political will to make it happen. The Observatory of Human Resources for Health is a tool that has transformed the way information and evidence is gathered and policy decisions made.
The Global Health System: Strengthening National Health Systems as the Next Step for Global Progress

by Julio Frenk

In the second in a series of articles on the changing nature of global health institutions, the author offers a framework to better understand national health systems and their role in global health.

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The Global Health System: Linking Knowledge with Action - Learning from Malaria

by Gerald T. Keusch, Wen L. Kilama, Suerie Moon et al.

In the third in a series of articles on the changing nature of global health institutions, the authors examine institutional arrangements for malaria research. It is clear from this review that support for and inclusion of local research institutions in global health research is essential to develop well-adapted health tools and to strengthen collaborations between global and local actors in implementation.

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Executive Summary

World Health Organization, Executive Board, 23 December 2009

The growing focus on the diseases of the poor has led to examination of the relationship between intellectual property rights, innovation and public health, and the gap in the innovation cycle with the concern that the commercial incentives provided by intellectual property rights have not resulted in sufficient improvements in public health in developing countries or to access to the benefits of innovations that take place in the developed world.

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**Implementation of Performance Support Approaches in Central America and Uganda**

by Bruno M. Benavides  
The Capacity Project, July 2009

23 pp. 371 kB:  

The Capacity Project worked with governments and partners in Central America and Uganda to test approaches for strengthening supervision systems in the health sector, as one component of the Project’s workforce performance support strengthening. These experiences demonstrate that supervision makes sense when it follows the local performance improvement processes, and when supervisors pay attention to the needs derived from local action plans to close identified performance gaps.

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**A historical reflection on research evaluation studies, their recurrent themes & challenges**

by Sonja Marjanovic, Stephen Hanney, Steven Wooding  
RAND Corporation 2009

55 pp. 1.2 MB:  

This report critically examines studies of how scientific research drives innovation which is then translated into socio-economic benefits. It focuses on research evaluation insights that are relevant not only to the academic community, but also to policymakers and evaluation practitioners – and particularly to biomedical and health research funders.

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**International Compilation of Human Research Protections**  
2010 Edition

Compiled by: Office for Human Research Protections, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010

132 pp. 877 kB:  
http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/international/HSPCompilation.pdf

This Compilation lists the approximately 1,100 laws, regulations, and guidelines that govern human subjects research in 96 countries, as well as standards from a number of international and regional organizations. It was developed for Research Ethics Committees, researchers, sponsors, and others who are involved in international research. Its purpose is to help these groups familiarize themselves with the laws, regulations, and guidelines where the research will be conducted, to assure these standards are followed appropriately.

**Information & Communication Technology**

**Planning Ahead - Is Asia's Healthcare Sector Ready for the Future?**
This report explores the significance of information technology within healthcare organisations across Asia Pacific, and the strategic value given to electronic record management. It highlights the move of public sector health organisations to greater automation. The majority of respondents reported that Electronic Record Management (ERM) of patient information over the coming years will be ‘Very Important’ or ‘Somewhat Important’. Hence, both frontline staff and the executive office are taking ERM very seriously.

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**Improving health care in rural areas: Information and communications technology solutions for least developed countries**

Policy Brief on ICT Applications in the Knowledge Economy - Issue No. 7, December 2009 - United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Achieving the health-related MDGs requires strengthening health systems, particularly in the following areas of (a) Expanding the primary health-care workforce and enriching the skill levels; (b) Upgrading and broadening medical infrastructure and logistics; (c) Providing affordable access to drugs and medical supplies; (d) Improving health decision-making and early warning by enhancing data collection and analysis of disease trends. This brief summarizes cost-effective information and communication technology (ICT) applications to support improvements in these areas in least developed, landlocked and small island countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

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**Education**

**The Power of Educating Adolescent Girls**

A Girls Count Report on Adolescent Girls

by Cynthia B. Lloyd and Juliet Young

The Population Council, 2009

We know that investing in girls is crucial to achieving our overall health and development goals. So why isn’t more being done? Proof of successful programs is integral to convincing advocates, policy-makers and the public to increase investments in programs that benefit adolescent girls. The authors of this report have made a valiant effort to provide just that.

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Promoting Gender Equality in Education
by Stefan Bengtsson, David Clarke, Usha Dixit et al.
Gender in Education Network in Asia-Pacific (GENIA) Toolkit, 2009

This publication is the 4th revised edition of the Gender in Education Network in Asia-Pacific (GENIA) Toolkit, which is updated regularly to reflect the most recent developments in gender in education. This edition has been shaped by GENIA focal points and gender specialists across the Asia-Pacific region who gathered in September 2009 for a technical workshop to finalize this Toolkit.

Inclusion of disabled people in Vocational Training & Income
An overview of international experiences and approaches
by Sasja Ras
Dark and Light Blind Care, 2008

People with disabilities are often excluded in work, because of ignorance and prejudice of society. A key factor is often their inability to compete on the basis of relevant skills or qualifications. For people with disabilities training, which should encompass skill, knowledge and attitudes, is very often the key to success in finding a job. Professional training – under qualified instructors, and leading if possible to some form of recognized certification – is an essential passport to gaining employment.

Resourcing Global Education
How reform of the Fast Track Initiative should lead to a Global Fund for Education
Katie Malouf
Oxfam International, January 2010

Remarkable progress has been made in the last ten years toward achieving the education-related Millennium Development Goals. Many more girls are in school and enrolment rates are on the rise, due to higher-quality aid and to political commitment in developing countries. However, these achievements could be derailed by the global economic crisis, newly falling aid levels, and educational challenges.
Harm Reduction and Drug Use


by Katherine E. Smith, Gary Fooks, Jeff Collin et al.

17 pp. 216 kB:
http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/fetchObjectAttachment.action?uri=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000202&representation=PDF

The authors investigate the ways in which British American Tobacco influenced the European Union Treaty so that new EU policies advance the interests of major corporations, including those that produce products damaging to health.

Water & Sanitation

Tackling the silent killer: The case for sanitation

by Oliver Cumming
Sanitation and Environment, WaterAid, July 2008

18 pp. 1.0 MB:
http://www.wateraidamerica.org/includes/documents/cm_docs/2008/t/tacking_the_silent_killer_the_case_for_sanitation_1.pdf

Sanitation is the single most cost-effective major public health intervention to reduce child mortality and will accelerate progress and strengthen investments in other MDG sectors. In the health sector improved access to sanitation would significantly reduce the burden on weak and failing health systems. But this report explores how the sanitation sector is being chronically and institutionally neglected by donors and developing country governments alike.

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A Snapshot of Sanitation in Africa


22 pp. 1.8 MB:

The Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) analyses presented here provide a snapshot of the proportion of population in Africa that, in 2006, used an improved sanitation facility. It also shows the proportion of the population, in Africa as a whole and in various regions, using shared or unimproved sanitation facilities in addition to those practising open defecation.

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**The MDGs and Beyond: Pro-Poor Policy in a Changing World**

Poverty in Focus - Number 19, January 2010
International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth

32 pp. 518 kB: [http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCPovertyInFocus19.pdf](http://www.ipc-undp.org/pub/IPCPovertyInFocus19.pdf)

This “Poverty in Focus” reviews the experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to date and asks what we can do to accelerate MDG progress in the years 2010-2015 and beyond. These debates acquire greater significance as we enter 2010 and embark on the discussions leading up to and beyond the UN review of the MDGs. The global economic crisis has changed the context within which MDG debates will happen.

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**Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for Persons with Disabilities**

United Nations General Assembly - Report of the Secretary-General, July 2009

21 pp. 133 kB: [http://www.dcdd.nl/data/1252922862208_MDG%20and%20Disability%2064.pdf](http://www.dcdd.nl/data/1252922862208_MDG%20and%20Disability%2064.pdf)

The report focuses on the situation of persons with disabilities with respect to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and on lessons learned and synergies and complementarities achieved, based on the implementation of the World Programme of Action, the Standard Rules and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

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**Assessing Zambia's Progress in Achieving the Gender-Related Millennium Development Goals**

by Deborah Sharp and
Gender and International Development, University of Oregon, August, 2009

18 pp. 503 kB: [http://www.uoregon.edu/~aweiss/intl421_521/Zambia%20MDGs%202009.pdf](http://www.uoregon.edu/~aweiss/intl421_521/Zambia%20MDGs%202009.pdf)

This report focuses on Zambian efforts to target the gender-related MDGs, as well as current and potential future success in achieving them. While focusing on MDG3 as the engine of equal development throughout, the author argues that all of the MDGs are gender related. As such, in the Zambian context, efforts and progress in each of the MDGs will be examined if gender aspects and implications are directly discernible and efforts are being made to meet the goals within a clearly gendered rubric.

**Development Assistance**

**Directory of Development Organizations 2010**
The directory of development organizations, listing 63,350 development organizations, has been prepared to facilitate international cooperation and knowledge sharing in development work, both among civil society organizations, research institutions, governments and the private sector. The directory aims to promote interaction and active partnerships among governments, private sector and key development organisations in civil society, including NGOs, trade unions, faith-based organizations, indigenous peoples movements, foundations and research centres.

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**Greater aid transparency: crucial for aid effectiveness**

by Sam Moon and Tim Williamson

Overseas Development Institute, January 2010


This paper sets out and explores the link between donor aid and recipient country budgets, and the role that greater transparency about aid can play in improving budget transparency, the quality of budgetary decisions, and accountability systems. The paper goes on to explore how current initiatives to improve aid transparency can best support better budgets and accountability in aid dependent countries.

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**Procurement and Development Effectiveness**

A Literature Review Commissioned by the European Network on Debt and Development (EURODAD), December 2009


The purpose of this document is to provide a literature review on development-related procurement policies and practices. The aim of the review is to advise on how to identify the contribution and potential of procurement policies and practices for development effectiveness. The document aims to be a tool for ongoing research.

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**Migration, Poverty Reduction Strategies and Human Development**

by Richard Black and Jon Sward

UNDP Human Development Research Paper 2009/38
Based on a review of Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs) completed since 1999, the paper argues that migration often remains poorly recognized or analyzed in poorer countries in terms of its impacts on poverty reduction, whilst attitudes towards migration in these countries are often highly negative and/or based on limited evidence, especially in relation to internal migration. The paper goes on to highlight the extent to which in Sub-Saharan African countries, successive drafts of PRSPs have shown increasing attention to migration.

**Mapping the Activities of Faith-based Organizations in Development in Nigeria**

by Olakunle Odumosu, Rasheed Olaniyi and Sunday Alonge


This paper explores the nature, scale and activities of faith-based organisations (FBOs) in Nigeria. The paper points that the emergence, aims and activities of organisations associated with Christianity and Islam are linked to the expansionist goals and political aspirations of the two faith traditions.

**Corruption and Development**

by Phil Matsheza, Anga R. Timilsina, Myriam Mendez Montalvo et al.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), December 2008

This primer explores the relationship between corruption and development including economic growth, poverty, human rights, gender, governance, human development, environment and sustainable development. It considers how UNDP could integrate anti-corruption principles and strategies with its technical assistance to reduce poverty, realize the MDGs and promote sustainable development.

Others

**Management of Dead Bodies after Disasters: A Field Manual for First Responders**

Editors: Oliver Morgan, Morris Tidball-Binz, Dana van Alphen

Pan American Health Organization, World Health Organization, International Committee of the Red Cross, 2006
Management of the dead is one of the most difficult aspects of disaster response. It has profound and long-lasting consequences for survivors and communities. Globally, disasters claim thousands of lives each year. However, care of the deceased is often overlooked in disaster planning and the absence of guidance for first responders has recently been highlighted following several large disasters.

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**World Population Ageing 2009**

United Nations Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), January 2010

82 pp. 894 kB:  

**Population Ageing and Development 2009 - Wall Chart**

2 pp. 4.9 MB:  

The document and chart contain up-to-date demographic, socioeconomic and labour force participation indicators of the older population in 230 countries in the world, including reference to the urban-rural differences in population ageing. The indicators include the number and proportion of the population aged 60 or over, aged 80 or over, life expectancy at age 60; the percentage currently married, living alone and in the labour force among those aged 60 or over; the old-age support ratio, and the statutory retirement age.

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**Mental health systems in selected low- and middle-income countries: a WHO-AIMS cross-national analysis**

by Antonio Lora, Jodi Morris, Shekhar Saxena et al.  
World Health Organization, 2009

108 pp. 5.5 MB:  

This report summarizes descriptive data on mental health systems using the World Health Organization Assessment Instrument for Mental health Systems (WHO-AIMS). Results suggest that a systematic assessment of mental health systems is possible in low- and middle-income countries (LAMICs). The comprehensive and detailed information gathered through WHO-AIMS and summarized in this report provides a better understanding of mental health systems in these countries.

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Protecting health from climate change: connecting science, policy and people

Editing: Barbara Campanini and Inis Communication
World Health Organization, 2009

36 pp. 1.7 MB:

The report presents an overview of the science of the links between climate change and human health. It provides an update of the evidence on health risks caused by climate change, describes which populations are most vulnerable, and outlines the actions that will be necessary to protect health from climate change.

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Confronting “Death on Wheels” - Making Roads Safe in Europe and Central Asia

Establishing multisectoral partnerships to address a silent epidemic

by Patricio Marquez, George Banjo, Elena Chesheva et al.
Europe and Central Asia Human Development Department/The World Bank, 2009

114 pp. 4.5 MB:

This report provides an overview of the challenges and opportunities in addressing road safety in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) Region. It presents information on the size, characteristics, and causes of the problem; presents evidence on the effectiveness of measures that countries world-wide have adopted to improve road safety; briefly describes current international road safety policy; and discusses a range of strategies and actions that could be undertaken.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

The Lancet Special Issue: Violent Conflict and Health

Volume 375, Issue 9711, Published January 22, 2010


This special issue on violent conflict and health examines the devastating effects of conflict on human health: direct injury from fighting, indirect morbidity and mortality caused by the breakdown of public health, and the effects on mental health which may affect quality of life, disability, and survival many years after the initial trauma. The special issue assesses the health consequences of violent conflict on civilians and combatants and also discusses wider societal consequences and ethical issues, particularly the routine breaking of the Geneva Conventions.

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International AIDS Society (IAS) Online Resource Library

The International AIDS Society (IAS) has launched an Online Resource Library and offers the contents of the library to the public, free of charge. They invite you to return to it often, since the library continuously improves its services and new resources will be added on an ongoing basis. In addition, your comments, suggestions and questions are welcome. The core of the collection is comprised mainly of abstracts and other documents related to the international conferences they organize, though it also features materials produced by the IAS secretariat.

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The Open AIDS Journal

The Open AIDS Journal is an Open Access online journal, which publishes research articles and letters in all areas of research on HIV/AIDS. The journal covers recent studies on experimental; clinical; therapeutic; pathogenesis; vaccines; drug resistance; diagnostics and virology on HIV/AIDS.

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Grey Literature Report

The Grey Literature Report is a bimonthly publication of The New York Academy of Medicine Library alerting readers to new grey literature publications in health services research and selected public health topics. In addition to this alert service, all resources are added and indexed in their Online Catalogue.

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Social Medicine Vol. 4, No. 4 (2009)

The Open Access Journal “Social Medicine” has just published its latest issue. It provides extensive coverage (in English) of the recent meeting of the Latin American Social Medicine Association (ALAMES) in Bogota. In addition it presents original research regarding primary care in Barbados, an anthropological investigation of bariatric surgery from Murcia, Spain and an examination of socialist health care reforms in Bolivia and Ecuador.

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World Bank Blog on ICT4D

The IC4D blog explores the impact of information and communication technologies (ICT) on development, both directly and as an enabler for other sectors of the economy. It is a space to share ideas and experiences, and to inspire dialogue on new and innovative ways in which ICT can create opportunities in developing countries.
C-Channel Newsletter - Issue 16

http://www.c-changeprogram.org/c-channel/issue16

C-Channel is the monthly e-newsletter from C-Change that features current research from the peer-reviewed literature on social and behavior change communication (SBCC) across HIV prevention, family planning/reproductive health, and malaria. Issue 16 highlights HIV prevention.

INTERESTING WEB SITES

Regional AIDS Training Network

http://www.ratn.org/

The Regional AIDS Training Network (RATN) is an International Regional NGO working in eleven countries in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) region. RATN works to strengthen the capacity of relevant individual, organizations and other stakeholders to respond to STIs/HIV/AIDS in Eastern and Southern Africa region.

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Emergency Nutrition Network (ENN)

Improving the effectiveness of emergency food and nutrition

http://www.ennonline.net/

Access materials on infant and young child feeding in emergencies relevant to the Haiti emergency response: http://www.ennonline.net/ife/mandate
Other key resources on nutrition in emergencies are located in the resource library: http://www.ennonline.net/resources/

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Children Count Web site

http://childrencount.ci.org.za/

On this site you will find information about children in South Africa: their living conditions, care arrangements, health status, and access to schools and other services. These child-centred statistics are based on the best available national data. The website includes downloadable fact sheets on 40 indicators, as well as an interactive tool that enables you to view tables and graphs for different years and provinces.

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Social Security Online

http://www.ssa.gov/international/links.html

An ever-increasing number of social security agencies and organizations around the world are publicizing their programmes on the World Wide Web. Some of these Web sites are listed here and will be adding to the list as we learn of new sites.
Governance and Social Development Resource Centre (GSDRC)

http://www.gsdrc.org/

The Governance and Social Development Resource Centre provides cutting-edge knowledge services on demand and online. It aims to help reduce poverty by informing policy and practice in relation to governance, conflict and social development. The GSDRC is funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID).

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

E-learning course: Basics of Health Economics

Duration and course load: 5 Weeks - 8 to 10 hours per week
Dates: 17 February - 24 March, 2010
Application deadline: 14 February 2010
Participants: (Health) Professionals
Course fee: US$ 200
Organizers: The World Bank Institute
Language: English only
General course contact:
Ms Jo Hindriks jhindriks@worldbank.org
Tel.: +1-202-4736425
Fax: +1-202-6760961

For more information (about previous courses) see:

For an application form see:

CONFERENCES

Evaluation Report: 5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention

19-22 July 2009, Cape Town, South Africa

by Laetitia Lienart, Julie Pluies, Rene Lavallee et al.
International AIDS Society (IAS), January 2010

120 pp. 3.0 MB:

The 5th IAS Conference attracted more than 5,800 participants, including 4,898 delegates from 125 countries. The primary aim of the conference evaluation was to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the conference and assess its immediate and long-term impact. The leading data collection instrument was an online survey sent to all delegates with an email address two weeks after the conference had ended. The survey itself enjoyed a high response rate (34%), with 1,378 surveys completed, over half by first-time attendees. In addition to the survey, several other instruments were utilized to collect data on specific conference sessions, activities and topics.
12th Congress of the Association for Health Information and Libraries in Africa (AHILA)

11-16 October, 2010
Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Theme: Health Information in Africa - Meeting Our Goals

Abstract Deadline: 31 July, 2010

For registration contact the Conference Secretariat
mailto:lerids@yahoo.fr

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37th Annual International Conference on Global Health
Dateline 2010: Global Health Goals & Metrics

14 - 18 June 2010
Washington DC, USA

The landmark conference to mark the progress on global health goals amongst all sectors within the global health community.

For more information see the conference web site:
http://www.globalhealth.org/conference_2010/

CARTOON

…more travel experiences
(provided by one of our readers)

This eliminates getting to the airport 2 hours early, but.....you still have to take off your shoes.
TIPS & TRICKS

Universal Serial Bus (USB) 3.0

USB (Universal Serial Bus) is a specification to establish communication between devices and a host controller (usually personal computers). USB is intended to replace many varieties of serial and parallel ports.

USB 3.0 is the next step in USB technology. With new devices coming out every day, there is a need for a faster technology to transfer data to your computer. Some devices such as Blu-ray players and very large external hard drives simply need to transfer data faster than what USB 2.0 is currently capable.

USB 3.0 is up to 10 times faster than USB 2.0. For example, if you have a 1 GB flash drive, it would take 33 seconds to transfer the entire contents to your computer using USB 2.0. Using USB 3.0, it will only take just over 3 seconds! If you transfer a HD movie that is 25 GB, it would take 13 minutes on USB 2.0. It will only take 70 seconds with USB 3.0.

USB 3.0 is just now getting off the ground. You should start to see USB 3.0 computers and devices appearing this year.

What happens to my USB 2.0 stuff? No need to worry here. The makers of USB 3.0 made sure that all of the USB 2.0 devices will work on USB 3.0 ports. If you get a new computer that has USB 3.0, you will still be able to plug in your 2.0 equipment. You will only get 2.0 speeds from the 2.0 devices, but at least they will work without costly upgrades.

Instant Properties

Here is a quick way to view the properties of a file or programme in MS Windows. If you need to get the properties for something (like an icon, for instance), just hold down your ALT key and double-click it. Try it with "My Computer" or one of your regular desktop icons.

And yes, you can also right-click an item and select “Properties” from the resulting menu.

Best regards,

Dieter Neuvians MD