EDITORIAL

Welcome to the ‘Health and Social Protection News Briefing’ – a ‘revamped’ edition of the very popular, tried and tested ‘HESP News & Notes’ which Dieter Neuvians has edited since 1997!

The objective remains the same: to give you, every two weeks, an overview of recently published open access publications on health and social protection in low- and middle-income countries (and related topics).

However, since some of the topics and priorities of development cooperation in this field have changed over recent years, we used your feedback to update both the topics (see table of contents) and the online sources that we continuously screen in order not to miss any interesting publication.

The newsletter is now part of the services offered by Healthy DEvelopments, the web portal for German Development Cooperation in health and social protection – hence the new name and design. As Healthy DEvelopments team we are proud and happy to have Dieter amongst us and we highly respect him as a pioneer in GIZ’s collaborative e-knowledge management.

In each editorial we will point you to some of the highlights featured in the newsletter. This time we would like to mention the most recent article in the Healthy DEvelopments’ ‘in focus’ series on the experience with the first edition of the ‘Leadership for Universal Health Coverage’ course, organised by GIZ and the World Bank. And we would like to draw your attention to WHO’s coverage of the 68th World Health Assembly, including interesting speeches by Angela Merkel and Margaret Chan.

Please do share the news briefing widely within your professional networks. The different options how to subscribe – including RSS feeds for particular thematic categories – are described in the box below.

We hope you enjoy this new edition. It will remain work in progress, so please tell us what you like or what we can improve (at hesp-news-briefing@healthy-developments.de).

Your editorial team

Dieter Neuvians, Viktor Siebert, Anna von Roenne

TO KEEP UP-TO-DATE

- subscribe to our pdf news briefing, sent to you every fortnight per email: send an email to majordomo@mailserv.giz.de, leave the subject field empty, just write the following commands in the email’s text body:
  subscribe hesp-news-briefing
  end
- subscribe to our RSS feeds (for the entire news briefing or individual thematic categories) to get continuous updates brought to your newsreader
- visit us on the web at health.bmz.de/
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ONLINE RESOURCES ............................................................................................................................................................... 5

Healthy Developments – Germany’s commitment to health and social protection ................................................................. 5

Every country needs to develop a resilient health system: Chancellor Merkel’s key note speech at the World Health Assembly ........................................................................................................................................................................... 5

Assessing the first Leadership for Universal Health Coverage course ...................................................................................... 5

“She matters” - Empowering women and girls. International G7/20 Parliamentarian’s meeting on 16/17 April in Berlin .......... 5

Towards better maternal and newborn care in rural Vietnam: Building provider confidence and changing client perceptions ............................................................................................................................................................................... 6

Health Systems Hub: A new online platform on mixed (public and private) health systems ..................................................... 6

Danger passed? Lessons from Ebola. A meeting at GIZ to review German contributions to the Ebola response .................. 6

Reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health & Right to health ........................................................................... 7

National Student Sexual Health HIV Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour Survey: Focusing on Student Men who have Sex with Men at 14 Higher Education Institutions in South Africa ............................................................................................................................. 7

Does a voucher program improve reproductive health service delivery and access in Kenya? ................................................. 7

Sexual and reproductive health and rights – the key to gender equality and women’s empowerment .................................... 8

Menstrual Hygiene Matters: Training guide for practitioners ........................................................................................................ 8

State of Inequality: Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health ...................................................................................... 8

True costs of maternal death ............................................................................................................................................................. 9

Strategies toward ending preventable maternal mortality (EPMM) ............................................................................................... 9

Quality of care for pregnant women and newborns - the WHO vision ......................................................................................... 9

State of the World’s Mothers 2015: The Urban Disadvantage ........................................................................................................ 9


Every Newborn - Progress Report May 2015 ................................................................................................................................. 10

Effect of Delayed Cord Clamping on Neurodevelopment at 4 Years of Age .................................................................................. 10

HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria ............................................................................................................................................................ 11

Consolidated strategic information guidelines for HIV in the health sector ............................................................................. 11

Scaling up of HIV treatment for men who have sex with men in Bangkok: a modelling and costing study ......................... 11

Starting Antiretroviral Treatment Early Improves Outcomes for HIV-Infected Individuals ......................................................... 12

Intra-gastric string test: an effective tool for diagnosing tuberculosis in adults unable to produce sputum ................................. 12

High incidence of latent tuberculosis infection among South African health workers: an urgent call for action ................. 12

Tuberculosis Control in the South-East Asia Region: Annual Report 2015 .................................................................................. 13


Impact of rapid diagnostic tests for the diagnosis and treatment of malaria at a peripheral health facility in Western Uganda: an interrupted time series analysis ............................................................................................................................... 14

Re-imagining the control of malaria in tropical Africa during the early years of the World Health Organization ................. 14

Socio-cultural and Structural Factors Contributing to Delays in Treatment for Children with Severe Malaria: A Qualitative Study in Southwestern Uganda ........................................................................................................... 14

Providing timely access to pre-referral treatment for severe malaria: how ready is the market in sub-Saharan Africa? ...... 15

Research: Effect of the Affordable Medicines Facility for malaria (AMfM) on the availability of antimalarials in Nigeria .... 15

Malaria medicines: a glass half full? ................................................................................................................................................... 16

Effective Coverage and Systems Effectiveness for Malaria Case Management in Sub-Saharan African Countries .......... 16

Information Systems to Support Surveillance for Malaria Elimination ....................................................................................... 16

Microscopy for the detection, identification and quantification of malaria parasites on stained thick and thin blood films in research settings ............................................................................................................... 17

Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness ................................................................. 17

Ebola Stigma Toolkit: Accepting and Supporting Ebola Survivors, Orphans and Families of Ebola Patients in the Community ...................................................................................................................................................... 17

Health worker Ebola infections in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone .......................................................................................... 18

Global Diseases, Collective Solutions: Networking in the New Epidemic Age ........................................................................... 18

How Three Scientists ‘Market’ Neglected Tropical Diseases And Raised More Than $1. Billion ....................................................... 18

Directory of online resources for prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections ........................................................................................................................................................................ 19

Progress towards polio eradication worldwide, 2014-2015 ........................................................................................................... 19
Current perspectives on the spread of plague in Africa ................................................................. 20

Nutrition, Non-Communicable Diseases & Environmental Health (incl. WASH & Climate Change) ... 20
The State of Food Insecurity in the World ...................................................................................... 20
The Cost of Hunger in Malawi: Social and Economic Impacts of Child Undernutrition in Malawi .................................................................................................................. 20
The rising cost of a healthy diet: changing relative prices of foods in high-income and emerging economies .................................................................................................................. 21
The post-2015 development agenda for diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa: challenges and future directions .......................................................................................................................... 21
Economics of Non-Communicable Diseases in Indonesia .................................................................. 22
Water for food security and nutrition ............................................................................................... 22
Sanitation Safety Planning: Manual for Safe Use and Disposal of Wastewater, Greywater and Excreta .............................................................................................................................. 22
The NAMA Guidebook .................................................................................................................... 23
Decarbonizing Development: Three Steps to a Zero-Carbon Future .............................................. 23

Population Dynamics & Social Determinants of Health (including Gender & Education) .......... 23
Education Improves Public Health and Promotes Health Equity ...................................................... 23

Health System Governance, Health Workforce and Health Information Systems ......................... 24
Developing effective policy strategies to retain health workers in rural Bangladesh: a policy analysis ................................................................................................................................. 24
Global Health Action Special Issue Transforming Nursing in South Africa ........................................ 24
Human Resources for Health Information System: Minimum Data Set for Health Workforce Registry ................................................................................................................................. 25
Valuing the work of unpaid community health workers and exploring the incentives to volunteering in rural Africa .......................................................................................................................... 25
A 6 Step Guide to Platforms in International Development ................................................................ 25
Use of an interactive voice response system to deliver refresher training in Senegal: Findings from Pilot Implementation and Assessment .................................................................................. 26
Organizational Guide to ICT4D: Leveraging Technology for International Development .............. 26
Free Information Resources Bulletin .................................................................................................. 26

Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies ................................................................. 27
An Unsupported Preference for Intravenous Antibiotics .................................................................. 27
Working Today for the Treatments of Tomorrow: MPP Annual Report 2014 .................................. 27
Worldwide country situation analysis: response to antimicrobial resistance ..................................... 27
Strategies to Secure Access to Generic Hepatitis C Medicines .......................................................... 28
The “child size medicines” concept: policy provisions in Uganda ...................................................... 28
Drug repurposing and human parasitic protozoan diseases ................................................................. 29
WHO Drug Information Vol. 28, No. 4, 2014 .................................................................................... 29

Management and Quality of Health Services and Facilities ............................................................. 29
Business Engagement in Building Healthy Communities: Workshop Summary .................................. 29
The ethics of health systems research: Selected guidelines and studies ............................................ 30
Reflections on the development of health economics in low- and middle-income countries ............ 30
Building primary care in a changing Europe: case studies ............................................................... 31
Assessing chronic disease management in European health systems: country reports .................... 31
Counting births and deaths ................................................................................................................ 31

Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection ................................ 32
Universal Health Coverage: an Overview and Lessons from Asia ................................................... 32
Financing universal health coverage - effects of alternative tax structures on public health systems: cross-national modelling in 89 low-income and middle-income countries ................................................................... 32
Global health security: the wider lessons from the west African Ebola virus disease epidemic ............. 33
Poverty-related and neglected diseases - an economic and epidemiological analysis of poverty relatedness and neglect in research and development .................................................................. 33
Attacks on Health - Global Report .................................................................................................... 33
Bulletin of the World Health Organization Vol. 93, Nr. 5, May 2015 ............................................... 34
Global evidence on inequities in rural health protection ................................................................. 34
Health care financing in Nigeria: Implications for achieving universal health coverage .................. 34

Old Age, Unemployment and Occupational Injuries Protection ..................................................... 35
Aging, Economic Growth, and Old-Age Security in Asia ................................................................. 35

Social Transfers ................................................................................................................................. 36
The Impact of Cash Transfers on Local Economies ....................................................................... 36
Social protection for maternity: Key policy trends and statistics .........................................................36

Harm Reduction & Drug Use .................................................................................................................37

Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use: Economics and Public Health Policy ..................................................37
World No Tobacco Day - May 31, 2015 .................................................................................................37
The Tobacco Atlas ..................................................................................................................................37
Electronic cigarettes and nicotine dependence: evolving products, evolving problems ......................37

Inclusion of People with Disabilities ..................................................................................................38

A study of humanitarian financing for older people and people with disabilities, 2010-2011 .................................................................38

Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation ..............38

The 2015 Data Report: Putting the Poorest First ................................................................................38
Universal Sustainable Development Goals: Understanding the Transformational Challenge for Developed Countries ..........................................................39
The impact of climate change on the achievement of the post-2015 sustainable development goals ......40
Helminth Elimination in the Pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals: A “Worm Index” for Human Development ..........................................................40
World Development Indicators 2015 ....................................................................................................40
In It Together: Why Less Inequality Benefits All ................................................................................41

CONFERENCES & TRAINING ...............................................................................................................41

All documentation for the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly (WHA68) .................................................41
2nd International Quality Forum ............................................................................................................42
Master Course “Medical Informatics” - Focusing on Telemedicine, e-Health and Telematics ................42
Online course - Africa: Sustainable Development for All? ...................................................................43
E-Learning for Publishing and Research Skills .....................................................................................43

CARTOON ........................................................................................................................................44

TIPS & TRICKS ..................................................................................................................................44

Make more use of the CTRL key in MS WORD ....................................................................................44
Insert text in front of table at document beginning ............................................................................45

IMPRINT ............................................................................................................................................46
ONLINE RESOURCES

Healthy Developments – Germany’s commitment to health and social protection

Every country needs to develop a resilient health system: Chancellor Merkel’s key note speech at the World Health Assembly

http://health.bmz.de/events/news-archive/2015/05/Chancellor_Merkels_key_note_speech_at_the_World_Health_Assembly/index.html

On 18 May 2015, Angela Merkel gave an opening speech at the 68th World Health Assembly in Geneva. She highlighted why Germany has set health as a major issue for its G7 presidency and outlined three main priorities: drawing the lessons from Ebola, fighting neglected tropical diseases and containing antimicrobial resistance. She also addressed the changing role of the World Health Organization and announced that Germany will contribute an additional EUR 200m in 2015-2016 to build resilient health systems, of which EUR 70m will be focused on West Africa.

Assessing the first Leadership for Universal Health Coverage course

http://health.bmz.de/events/In_focus/Making_leaders_more_effective/index.html

30 participants from six African countries recently completed the first edition of a new course on ‘Leadership for Universal Health Coverage’. Organised by GIZ and the World Bank as partners in the P4H network, the course focused on ‘leadership’ skills rather than only technical UHC knowledge. This was based on the analysis that in complex, multi-stakeholder contexts making headway on UHC requires us to go far beyond promoting technically sound policies and implementation plans. What did participants and stakeholders take away from the first edition of the course?

‘She matters’ - Empowering women and girls: International G7/20 Parliamentarian’s meeting on 16/17 April in Berlin

http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2015/She_matters_-_International_Parliamentarians___Conference__16-17_April_2015/index.html

On 16th and 17th April, an international conference brought together 90 parliamentarians from 50 countries all over the world at the German Federal Ministry for
Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to discuss women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights, their economic empowerment and ways to prevent violence against women and girls. Further information

**Towards better maternal and newborn care in rural Vietnam: Building provider confidence and changing client perceptions**


An assessment of client perceptions and referral practices in provincial and district hospitals in Vietnam showed that the support provided by the German health programme has made a difference: Health workers feel more confident to manage more complex obstetric and newborn cases and parents have begun to trust local services to treat their newborns.

**Health Systems Hub: A new online platform on mixed (public and private) health systems**

http://healthsystemshub.org/

The Mixed Health Systems Hub, a new website initiated by the HANSHEP group (Harnessing non-state actors for better health for the poor) is designed to support knowledge exchange, networking and collaboration among health practitioners, policymakers, researchers and development partners committed to creating equitable and sustainable health systems for all.

**Danger passed? Lessons from Ebola. A meeting at GIZ to review German contributions to the Ebola response**

http://health.bmz.de/events/news-archive/Updates_on_the_Ebola_outbreak_in_West_Africa/Has_the_danger_passed_Lessons_learned_from_the_Ebola_crisis/index.html

On April 22, GIZ convened a meeting in Eschborn to reflect on German organisations’ experiences during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa. Walter Lindner, the German government’s Ebola Commissioner, and Gudrun Grosse Wiesmann, head of the BMZ’s Africa division as well as Andreas Proksch and Marina Mdaihli shared their perspectives on the crisis and what could be learned from it.
Reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health & Right to health

**National Student Sexual Health HIV Knowledge, Attitude and Behaviour Survey: Focusing on Student Men who have Sex with Men at 14 Higher Education Institutions in South Africa**

Published by Higher Education and Training HIV/AIDS Programme (HEAIDS) and Networking HIV/AIDS Community of South Africa (NACOSA), November 2014
92 pp. 1.6 MB


The study surveyed 8,869 students across higher education institutions and found that about 10 percent of those surveyed identified as men who have sex with men (MSM). According to the report, the study found high levels of sexual violence among MSM with more than one in 10 reporting being forced to have sex against their will. About 3 percent of MSM reported perpetrating sexual violence against a partner. The study recommends strengthening campus HIV testing and mental health services for MSM and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning and intersex (LGBTQI) students. It also advocates working to create more enabling environments on campuses for MSM and LGBTQI students.

**Does a voucher program improve reproductive health service delivery and access in Kenya?**

by Rebecca Njuki, Timothy Abuya, James Kimani et al.
BMC Health Services Research 2015, 15:206 (23 May 2015)
18 pp. 424 kB

http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/s12913-015-0860-x.pdf

Public and private sector healthcare providers and facility managers perceive value in the voucher program as a healthcare financing model. They recognize that it has the potential to significantly increase demand for reproductive health services, improve quality of care and reduce inequities in the use of reproductive health services. To improve program functioning going forward, there is need to ensure the benefit package and criteria for beneficiary identification are well understood and that the public facilities are permitted greater autonomy to utilize revenue generated from the voucher program.
Sexual and reproductive health and rights – the key to gender equality and women’s empowerment

International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF), February 2015
48 pp. 1.7 MB

The second report in the Vision 2020 series, this publication sets out how sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) is critical to gender equality and women’s empowerment across three dimensions. It explores how ensuring universal access to SRHR can promote economic growth, social equity and political participation.

Menstrual Hygiene Matters: Training guide for practitioners

by Thérèse Mahon and Sue Cavill
WaterAid, 2015
78 pp. 5.7 MB

Menstruation is a natural process but it is rarely talked about because of cultural taboos. Menstrual hygiene – how to manage menstruation safely and with dignity – has also been largely neglected by the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector and others focusing on reproductive health and education. This new training guide is the latest contribution to building the knowledge base around menstrual hygiene management (MHM) and raising awareness of the issue globally. It seeks to support facilitators with tools to develop and facilitate sessions or workshops on MHM amongst development practitioners.

State of Inequality: Reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health

by Ahmad Reza Hosseinpoor, Nicole Bergen, Anne Schlotheuber et al.
World Health Organization, 2015
118 pp. 3.5 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/164590/1/9789241564908_eng.pdf

The report communicates the state of inequality in reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health within low- and middle-income countries, revealing that significant inequalities exist in this area. The good health of women, infants and children is essential for sustainable development, and there is still much work to be done. Discussions will increasingly call into question how efforts to improve reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health can achieve early and accelerated progress among those who are falling behind.
**True costs of maternal death**

Case studies from Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, and South Africa. Does maternal mortality impact under-five mortality?

Edited by Jose Belizan and Suellen Miller

Reproductive Health, Vol. 12 Supplement 1; 6 May 2015

Access 7 articles free of charge at: http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/supplements/12/S1

Reproductive Health publishes selected collections of research articles, conference proceedings, reviews, and reports as supplements, which are free to access online. All articles published in supplements are subject to peer review; meeting abstracts undergo review and selection by the conference.

**Strategies toward ending preventable maternal mortality (EPMM)**

by Rima Jolivet, Carla Abou Zahr, Agbessi Amouzou et al.

World Health Organization, May 2015

52 pp. 1.1 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/153544/1/9789241508483_eng.pdf?ua=1

The ultimate goal of the post-2015 maternal health strategy is to end all preventable maternal mortality. The strategy to achieve this goal is grounded in a holistic, human rights-based approach to sexual, reproductive, maternal and newborn health and rests on the foundation of implementation effectiveness, which is context-specific, systems-oriented and people-centric. Concrete political commitments and financial investments by country governments and development partners are necessary to meet the targets and carry out the strategies for EPMM.

**Quality of care for pregnant women and newborns - the WHO vision**

by Ö Tuncalp, WM Were, C MacLennan et al.


5 pp. 313 kB


In line with its organisational mandate, six strategic areas have been identified for WHO to contribute to ending preventable mortality and morbidity among mothers and newborns. The quality of care (QoC) definition and framework will inform this evidence-based and systematic approach to (1) research, (2) guideline development, (3) standards of care, (4) identification of effective intervention strategies for quality improvement, (5) development of monitoring indicators at global, national, and facility levels, and (6) capacity strengthening for quality improvement research, measurement and programming.
**State of the World’s Mothers 2015: The Urban Disadvantage**

by Tracy Geoghegan, Lani Crane, David Oot et al.
Save the Children Federation, Inc. 2015
80 pp. 4.7 MB

http://www.savethechildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9def2ebe-10ae-432c-9bd0-df91d2eba74a%7D/SOWM_2015.PDF

This report presents the latest and most extensive analysis to date of health disparities between rich and poor in cities. It finds that in most developing countries, the poorest urban children are at least twice as likely to die as the richest urban children. In some countries, they are 3 to 5 – or even more – times as likely to die.


by Frances Day-Stirk, Laura Laski, Elizabeth Mason et al.
228 pp. 9.1 MB


The report presents findings on midwifery from 73 low- and middle-income countries. It shows the progress and trends that have taken place since the inaugural 2011 edition, and also identifies the barriers and challenges to future progress. Despite a steady drop in maternal and newborn deaths since 1990, hundreds of thousands of women and newborns continue to die each year during pregnancy and childbirth: An estimated 289,000 women and about 3 million newborn babies died in 2013 alone. The vast majority lost their lives due to complications and illnesses that could have been prevented with proper antenatal care and the presence of a skilled midwife during delivery.

**Every Newborn - Progress Report May 2015**

by Olive Cocoman, Mary Kinney, Kim Dickson et al.
World Health Organization, 2015
28 pp. 3.1 MB


The Every Newborn Action Plan (ENAP) is based on the latest epidemiology, evidence of essential interventions and global and country learning about effective programme implementation, and supports the United Nations Secretary-General’s Every Woman Every Child movement. The action plan was launched in June 2014 with 40 new commitments to Every Woman Every Child in support of the plan. This Progress Report focuses on country implementation and provides an overview of progress since the ENAP consultation process began in 2013. Further information can be found on the Every Newborn website: http://www.everynewborn.org
Effect of Delayed Cord Clamping on Neurodevelopment at 4 Years of Age

by Ola Andersson, Barbro Lindquist, Magnus Lindgren et al.

*JAMA Pediatrics* - Published online May 26, 2015
8 pp. 348 kB


Prevention of iron deficiency in infancy may promote neurodevelopment. Delayed umbilical cord clamping (CC) prevents iron deficiency at 4 to 6 months of age, but long-term effects after 12 months of age have not been reported. The authors conclude that delayed CC compared with early CC improved scores in the fine-motor and social domains at 4 years of age, especially in boys, indicating that optimizing the time to CC may affect neurodevelopment in a low-risk population of children born in a high-income country.

HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria

Consolidated strategic information guidelines for HIV in the health sector

by Ward Rinehart, Sarah Johnson, Celine Daly et al.

World Health Organization, May 2015
280 pp. 5.3 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/164716/1/9789241508759_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1

This guidance consolidates, prioritizes and describes key indicators to monitor the national and global response of the health sector to HIV. Its goal is to help countries choose, collect and systematically analyse strategic information to guide the health sector response to HIV. The aim of consolidation is to ensure that all indicators are in one place, are prioritized and linked in a result chain, and can be used to support quality care along the health sector cascade of HIV services.

Scaling up of HIV treatment for men who have sex with men in Bangkok: a modelling and costing study

by Lei Zhang, Nittaya Phanuphak, Klara Henderson et al.

8 pp. 755 kB

http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanhiv/PIT2352-3018(15)00020-X.pdf

Despite the high prevalence of HIV in men who have sex with men (MSM) in Bangkok, little investment in HIV prevention for MSM has been made. HIV testing and treatment coverage remains
Ilow. Through a pragmatic programme-planning approach, the authors assess possible service linkage and provision of HIV testing and antiretroviral treatment (ART) to MSM in Bangkok, and the most cost-effective scale-up strategy.

**Starting Antiretroviral Treatment Early Improves Outcomes for HIV-Infected Individuals**

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), 27 May 2015

Read online at: http://www.niaid.nih.gov/news/newsreleases/2015/Pages/START.aspx

“We now have clear-cut proof that it is of significantly greater health benefit to an HIV-infected person to start antiretroviral therapy sooner rather than later,” said NIAID Director Anthony S. Fauci, M.D. “Moreover, early therapy conveys a double benefit, not only improving the health of individuals but at the same time, by lowering their viral load, reducing the risk they will transmit HIV to others. These findings have global implications for the treatment of HIV.”

**Intra-gastric string test: an effective tool for diagnosing tuberculosis in adults unable to produce sputum**

by D. Atwine, M. Nansumba, P. Oririmiza et al.


7 pp. 356 kB


Tuberculosis (TB) diagnosis is challenging in patients who are unable to produce sputum. The string test, a procedure used to retrieve enteric pathogens Giardia and Helicobacter pylori, is a potential alternative diagnostic tool. The authors conclude that the string test was well tolerated and provided similar yields to sputum induction, offering a viable alternative in resource-limited settings with minimal risk of transmission.

**High incidence of latent tuberculous infection among South African health workers: an urgent call for action**

by K. M. McCarthy, L. E. Scott, N. Gous et al.


8 pp. 195 kB


In South Africa, health care workers (HCWs) are at two-fold greater risk of acquiring tuberculosis (TB) disease than the general population. Few studies have evaluated the risk of incident tuberculous
infection. The authors conclude that the high latent tuberculous infection (LTBI) incidence and the association of incident LTBI with annual TB caseload among HCWs indicate that more effective TB infection control should be implemented in South African health care facilities.

**Tuberculosis Control in the South-East Asia Region: Annual Report 2015**

World Health Organization, 2015
435 pp. 4.6 MB


National Tuberculosis (TB) control programmes in all 11 Member States of the South-East Asia Region have made a substantial progress in implementing the components of the Stop TB strategy. This annual report reviews the epidemiological and programmatic situation of the country TB programmes and progress made in the countries during 2014 and provides guidance to countries to further strengthen their efforts towards achievement of the target as set out in the ‘End TB Strategy’ to eliminate TB by 2035.

**Treatment of Drug-Resistant TB with New and Repurposed Medications: A Supplemental Field Guide for Nurses**

The SWIFT Response Project, May 2015
22 pp. 540 kB


For the first time in almost 50 years there are two new drugs for the treatment of drug-resistant TB (DR-TB): bedaquiline and delamanid. There has also been increased attention given to the safety and efficacy of “re-purposed” drugs that have been widely used to treat other infections but are also showing promise in the treatment of DR-TB, including linezolid and clofazimine. This special supplemental guide has been developed for nurses, because it is essential that nurses be provided with material that maximizes their ability to provide optimal support to patients who are receiving new and re-purposed drugs.
Impact of rapid diagnostic tests for the diagnosis and treatment of malaria at a peripheral health facility in Western Uganda: an interrupted time series analysis

by Ross M Boyce, Anthony Muiru, Raquel Reyes et al.
13 pp. 693 kB

http://www.malariajournal.com/content/pdf/s12936-015-0725-0.pdf

The World Health Organization recommends that all suspected malaria cases receive a parasitological diagnosis prior to treatment with artemisinin-based combination therapy. A recent meta-analysis of clinical trials evaluating rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) for the management of patients with fever found substantial reductions in anti-malarial prescriptions when health workers adhered to treatment protocols based on test results. However few studies have reported on the impact of RDTs on health systems outside research settings. The results show a reduction in referrals and shorter mean inpatient length of hospital stay (LOS) even as antibiotics were prescribed less frequently. This change greatly increased laboratory throughput and the resultant proportion of patients receiving a parasite-based diagnosis.

Re-imagining the control of malaria in tropical Africa during the early years of the World Health Organization

by Socrates Litsios
Malaria Journal 2015, 14:178 (24 April 2015)
9 pp. 408 kB


This paper grew out of a meeting organized in October 2014 in London on ‘Re-imagining malaria’. The focus of that meeting was on malaria today; only afterwards did the idea emerge that re-imagining the past might serve as a useful way for guiding present rethinking. Sub-Saharan Africa is the logical place for such a re-examination for, as argued in this paper, the approaches that emerged following the collapse of the global eradication campaign were available to WHO in the 1950s, but these were not pursued as Africa was not encouraged to seek solutions outside those being advocated for eradication elsewhere.

Sociocultural and Structural Factors Contributing to Delays in Treatment for Children with Severe Malaria: A Qualitative Study in Southwestern Uganda

by Radhika Sundararajan, Juliet Mwanga-Amumpaire, Harriet Adrama et al.
8 pp. 606 kB

http://www.ajtmh.org/content/92/5/933.full.pdf+html
Malaria is a leading cause of paediatric mortality, and Uganda has among the highest incidences in the world. Increased morbidity and mortality are associated with delays to care. This qualitative study sought to characterize barriers to prompt allopathic care for children hospitalized with severe malaria in the endemic region of southwestern Uganda. The findings inform a number of potential interventions that could alleviate the burden of this preventable, but often fatal, illness. Such interventions could be beneficial in similarly endemic, low-resource settings.

**Providing timely access to pre-referral treatment for severe malaria: how ready is the market in sub-Saharan Africa?**

by Ioana Ursu and Meghan Kumar

Africa Health, March 2015

4 pp. 2.7 MB


The recommended intravenous (IV) or intramuscular artesunate (IM) treatment for severe malaria is often not available at the first point of care for sick patients. In such cases, the World Health Organization (WHO) recommends the use of rectal artesunate (RAS) suppositories administered at community level followed by referral to a higher-level facility, thus ‘buying time’ for caregivers to reach facilities within 6-12 hours’ travel time. However, pre-referral treatment for severe malaria is not yet prioritised by most national malaria control programmes (NMCPs) in Africa. Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) is currently working with two manufacturing companies to prepare dossiers for RAS submission to WHO for pre-qualification before the end of 2015.

**Research: Effect of the Affordable Medicines Facility for malaria (AMFm) on the availability of antimalarials in Nigeria**

by Arinola Joda, Nnenna Ezeigwe, Lilian Oguguo et al.

Malaria World Journal, 2015, 6, 5

6 pp. 976 kB


The aim of this study was to document the availability of artemisinin-based combination therapies (ACTs) and rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) provided under the National Malaria Elimination Programme via the Affordable Medicines Facility for malaria (AMFm) financing strategy. The results obtained in this survey show that continuous monitoring of the antimalarial drug landscape is required to track progress in the fight against malaria in the country.
Malaria medicines: a glass half full?

by Timothy N. C. Wells, Rob Hooft van Huijsduijnen & Wesley C. Van Voorhis
Nature Reviews Drug Discovery (2015) - Published online 22 May 2015
19 pp. 695 kB
http://www.nature.com/nrd/journal/vaop/ncurrent/pdf/nrd4573.pdf

Despite substantial scientific progress over the past two decades, malaria remains a worldwide burden that causes hundreds of thousands of deaths every year. New, affordable and safe drugs are required to overcome increasing resistance against artemisinin-based treatments, treat vulnerable populations, interrupt the parasite life cycle by blocking transmission to the vectors, prevent infection and target malaria species that transiently remain dormant in the liver. In this Review, the authors discuss how the antimalarial drug discovery pipeline has changed over the past 10 years, grouped by the various target compound or product profiles, to assess progress and gaps, and to recommend priorities.

Effective Coverage and Systems Effectiveness for Malaria Case Management in Sub-Saharan African Countries

Katya Galaktionova, Fabrizio Tediosi, Don de Savigny et al.
PloS ONE 10(5): e0127818 (22 May 2015)
21 pp. 1.5 MB

Many patients with malaria do not access care, providers do not comply with treatment guidelines, and hence, patients do not necessarily receive the correct regimen. Even when the correct regimen is administered some patients will not adhere and others will be treated with counterfeit or substandard medication leading to treatment failures and spread of drug resistance. The authors conclude that different factors account for health system inefficiencies in different countries. Significant losses in effectiveness of treatment are estimated in all countries. The patterns of inter-country variation suggest that these are system failures that are amenable to change. Identifying the reasons for the poor health system performance and intervening to tackle them become key priority areas for malaria control and elimination policies in the region.

Information Systems to Support Surveillance for Malaria Elimination

by Colin Ohrt, Kathryn W. Roberts, Hugh J. W. Sturrock et al.
Am J Trop Med Hyg - Published online May 26, 2015
15 pp. 1.3 MB
http://majtjh.org/content/early/2015/05/21/ajtmh.14-0257.full.pdf
Robust and responsive surveillance systems are critical for malaria elimination. The ideal information system that supports malaria elimination includes: rapid and complete case reporting, incorporation of related data, such as census or health survey information, central data storage and management, automated and expert data analysis, and customized outputs and feedback that lead to timely and targeted responses. Spatial information enhances such a system, ensuring cases are tracked and mapped over time. Data sharing and coordination across borders are vital and new technologies can improve data speed, accuracy, and quality. Parts of this ideal information system exist and are in use, but have yet to be linked together coherently.

Microscopy for the detection, identification and quantification of malaria parasites on stained thick and thin blood films in research settings

El Hadji Ba, J. Kevin Baird, John Barnwell et al.
World Health Organization on behalf of the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases, 2015
36 pp. 1.4 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/163782/1/9789241549219_eng.pdf?ua=1

This manual was developed to guide a move towards common standards for undertaking and reporting research microscopy for malaria parasite detection, identification and quantification. It contains procedures based on agreed quality assurance standards for research malaria microscopy. The collaborating institutions commit to adhering to these standards in published research studies. It is hoped that they will form a solid basis for the wider adoption of standardized reference microscopy protocols for malaria research.

Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness

Ebola Stigma Toolkit: Accepting and Supporting Ebola Survivors, Orphans and Families of Ebola Patients in the Community

80 pp. 744 kB


Ebola survivors, family members, and orphans as well as health care workers that worked with Ebola patients have been ignored, shunned, and been treated unfairly because of their experience with Ebola. This toolkit is written to help the mobilizer and communicator talk about these concerns and fears in their community. The toolkit includes Exercises and Group Discussions where community members can talk about these fears and how these fears affect survivors, family members, orphans and health workers. The toolkit also has Exercises for what community members can do to reduce discrimination against survivors and support a positive community for them.
Health worker Ebola infections in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone

A Preliminary Report

World Health Organization, 21 May 2015
16 pp. 902 kB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/171823/1/WHO_EVD_SDS_REPORT_2015.1_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1

This preliminary report summarizes the impact of the Ebola epidemic on the health workforce of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. It investigates the determinants of infection and describes safe practices put in place to protect health workers during the epidemic. The report covers the period from 1 January 2014 to 31 March 2015 and it presents findings from the 815 confirmed and probable cases for whom individual case reports were available.

Global Diseases, Collective Solutions: Networking in the New Epidemic Age

by Ben Ramalingam
Global Solution Networks 2015
43 pp. 1.8 MB

Environmental disruption, mass urbanization and the runaway globalization of trade and transport have created ideal conditions for infectious diseases to emerge and spread around the world. Rapid spill-overs from local into regional and global crises reveal major gaps in the global system for dealing with infectious diseases. A number of Global Solution Networks have emerged that address failures of systems, of institutions and of markets. At their most ambitious, they aim to change the rules of the global health game - opening up governance structures, sharing knowledge and science, developing new products, creating markets - all with the ultimate aim of preventing and treating diseases, and saving lives.

How Three Scientists ‘Marketed’ Neglected Tropical Diseases And Raised More Than $1 Billion

by Amy Nordrum
International Business Time, May 14 2015
Read online at: http://www.ibtimes.com/how-three-scientists-marketed-neglected-tropical-diseases-raised-more-1-billion-1921008

Imagine a single disease that inflicts blindness, deforms limbs, stunts growth - one that affects the daily lives of more than 1 billion people in numerous countries around the world. If there were such a pandemic, it would trigger frightful headlines and a call to action for funding to help drugmakers
locate and distribute a cure. In reality, a rash of 17 diseases plague the world’s poorest communities with precisely these problems but these maladies were largely ignored until three researchers came up with the surprisingly simple idea to "market" them to politicians and private foundations collectively as “neglected tropical diseases.” The result has been a surge of funding in the last decade.

Directory of online resources for prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections


The directory lists guidance on prevention and control of antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections, which are available online. They were published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), EU/EEA Member States, international and national agencies and professional societies to support healthcare professionals, hospital administrators and public health professionals.

Progress towards polio eradication worldwide, 2014-2015

WHO Weekly Epidemiological Record, 22 May 2015
8 pp. 327 kB

http://www.who.int/wer/2015/wer9021.pdf?ua=1

In 1988, the World Health Assembly (WHA) resolved to eradicate polio worldwide. Since then, endemic transmission of wild poliovirus (WPV) has been interrupted in all countries except Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan. Of the 3 WPV types, only WPV type 1 has been detected since November 2012. In 2012, the WHA declared global polio eradication a “programmatic emergency for global public health”. In 2014, the WHO Director-General declared the continued international spread of WPV from the remaining endemic countries to polio-free countries a “public health emergency of international concern” under the International Health Regulations. This report summarizes global progress to-wards polio eradication during 2014-2015, and updates previous reports.
Current perspectives on the spread of plague in Africa

by Wael Mohamed Lotfy
Research and Reports in Tropical Medicine, Vol. 6, 22 May 2015
10 pp. 655 kB


Human plague was reported from at least 28 countries in Africa, among them eight countries are currently with active human foci. The Democratic Republic of the Congo and Madagascar are the countries with the highest endemicity in the world. The authors conclude that all African countries should be concerned by the possible emergence/re-emergence of the disease. It is crucial to implement some preventive measures in these countries. These measures include surveillance of suspected natural foci, rodent and in-sect eradication campaigns, and public health education.

Nutrition, Non-Communicable Diseases & Environmental Health (incl. WASH & Climate Change)

The State of Food Insecurity in the World

Meeting the 2015 international hunger targets: taking stock of uneven progress

Editors: Piero Conforti, George Rapsomanikis, Josef Schmidhuber et al.
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the World Food Programme (WFP), 2015
62 pp. 2.4 MB

http://www.fao.org/3/a-i4646e.pdf

This year’s report takes stock of progress made towards achieving the internationally established Millennium Development Goal (MDG1) and World Food Summit hunger targets and reflects on what needs to be done, as we transition to the new post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. The report reviews progress made since 1990 for every country and region as well as for the world as a whole. Overall progress notwithstanding, much work remains to be done to eradicate hunger and achieve food security across all its dimensions.

The Cost of Hunger in Malawi: Social and Economic Impacts of Child Undernutrition in Malawi

Implications on National Development and Vision 2020

UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the World Food Programme (WFP), 2015
76 pp. 6.9 MB

Malawi has made remarkable progress in improving child health outcomes as evidenced by reduction in infant and under-five mortality. However, there has been slow progress in reducing malnutrition. Currently, the country has high levels of stunting among under-five children, which is an indication that chronic food and nutrition insecurity are still prevalent. The high prevalence of malnutrition has impacted greatly on education and health outcomes. The study has highlighted that the country has incurred huge economic losses associated with under nutrition, the highest being the cost in loss of potential productivity.

**The rising cost of a healthy diet: changing relative prices of foods in high-income and emerging economies**

by Steve Wiggins, Sharada Keats, Euan Han et al.
Overseas Development Institute Research Reports and Studies, May 2015
64 pp. 2.8 MB:


In high income countries over the last 30 years it seems that the cost of healthy items in the diet has risen more than that of less healthy options, thereby encouraging diets that lead to excess weight. It seems the same may apply in emerging economies, such as Brazil, China, Korea and Mexico, where prices of fruit and vegetables have been rising more than most other foods, including energy-dense processed foods. A strong case emerges for using taxes and subsidies to offset these changes to encourage more consumption of healthy foods and less of unhealthy items.

**The post-2015 development agenda for diabetes in sub-Saharan Africa: challenges and future directions**

by Andre M. N. Renzaho
Global Health Action, Vol. 8 (19 May 2015)
8 pp. 419 kB

http://www.globalhealthaction.net/index.php/gha/article/download/27600/pdf_70

Diabetes is one of the non-communicable diseases (NCDs) which is rising significantly across sub-Saharan African (SSA) countries and posing a threat to the social, economic, and cultural fabric of the SSA population. The inclusion of NCDs into the post-2015 development agenda along with the global monitoring framework provides an opportunity to monitor progress of development programmes in developing countries. This paper examines challenges associated with dealing with diabetes within the development agenda in SSA and explores some policy options.
Economics of Non-Communicable Diseases in Indonesia

by D. E. Bloom, S. Chen, M. McGovern et al.
World Economic Forum, 2015
16 pp. 1.4 MB

The publication provides new data on the economic burden of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in the country, and puts it in perspective by drawing a comparison with India and China. The evidence presented provides a starting point in reorienting the dialogue on investing in healthy living and NCD prevention in Indonesia towards the view that a healthy population is an important factor for sustainable growth.

Water for food security and nutrition

by Lyla Mehta, Oscar Cordeiro-Netto, Theib Oweis et al.
A report by The High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) on Food Security and Nutrition - HLPE Reports series #9; May 2015
129 pp. 4.1 MB

This policy-oriented report presents a synthesis of existing evidence on the multiple relations between water and food security and nutrition, from global levels to household levels. The aim of this report, given the diversity of contexts, is to help all concerned actors to improve water management, and management of agricultural and food systems for water, and to improve water governance, given the overarching need to ensure provision and access to safe drinking water for all, good sanitation, and maximize the contribution of water to food security and nutrition for all, now and in the future.

Sanitation Safety Planning: Manual for Safe Use and Disposal of Wastewater, Greywater and Excreta

by Mr Darryl Jackson, Mirko Winkler, Thor-Axel Stenström et al.
World Health Organization, 2015
156 pp. 1.7 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/171753/1/9789241549240_eng.pdf?ua=1

Increasing access to basic sanitation at the household level remains a critical public health intervention for preventing sanitation related disease especially for diarrhoea, intestinal worms, schistosomiasis and trachoma which affect millions of people. Sanitation Safety Planning is a tool to help sanitation system operators maximise health benefits and minimise health risk of their system.
It guides operators to prioritize and target risk management efforts to where it will have the most impact and to improve over time. The outputs can be used to provide assurance to the public and authorities of the system performance based on sound risk based management.

**The NAMA Guidebook**

2nd Edition  
by Miguel Jiro Ogahara  
Overseas Environmental Cooperation Center, Japan (OECC), 2015  
104 pp, 24.0 MB(!)  
http://lowcarbon-asia.org/english/data/assets/docs/nama_guidebook.pdf

This guidebook is intended as a useful tool for practitioners and developing country representatives in their further efforts to move towards low carbon societies through nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs). Section I includes some theoretical aspects, such as NAMAs in the context of national planning and also institutional arrangement for NAMAs. Section II is completely dedicated to introduce experiences in Asia, Latin America and Africa, through case studies. The third section refers to conclusions, lessons learned and key messages of this guidebook.

**Decarbonizing Development: Three Steps to a Zero-Carbon Future**

by Marianne Fay, Stephane Hallegatte, Adrien Vogt-Schilb et al.  
182 pp, 13.5 MB(!)  

Getting to zero net emissions and stabilizing climate change starts with planning for the long-term future and not stopping at short-term goals. It means getting prices right as part of a broad policy package that can trigger changes in both investments and behaviours, and it requires smoothing the transition for those most affected. This new World Bank report walks policymakers through those three steps with data, examples and policy advice to help put countries on a path to decarbonizing their development in a smooth and orderly way.

**Population Dynamics & Social Determinants of Health (including Gender & Education)**

**Education Improves Public Health and Promotes Health Equity**

by Robert A. Hahn and Benedict I. Truman  
Int J Health Serv May 19, 2015  
22 pp, 464 kB  
http://joh.sagepub.com/content/early/2015/05/15/0020731415585986.full.pdf
This article describes a framework and empirical evidence to support the argument that educational programs and policies are crucial public health interventions. Concepts of education and health are developed and linked, and the authors review a wide range of empirical studies to clarify pathways of linkage and explore implications. Basic educational expertise and skills, including fundamental knowledge, reasoning ability, emotional self-regulation, and interactional abilities, are critical components of health.

**Health System Governance, Health Workforce and Health Information Systems**

**Developing effective policy strategies to retain health workers in rural Bangladesh: a policy analysis**


19 pp. 389 kB


Introduction Retention of human resources for health (HRH), particularly physicians and nurses in rural and remote areas, is a major problem in Bangladesh. The authors reviewed relevant policies and provisions in relation to HRH aiming to develop appropriate rural retention strategies in Bangladesh. They conclude that the government is committed to address the rural retention problem as shown through the formulation and implementation of related policies and strategies. However, Bangladesh needs more effective policies and provisions designed specifically for attraction, deployment, and retention of HRH in rural areas, and the execution of these policies and provisions must be monitored and evaluated effectively.

**Global Health Action Special Issue: Transforming Nursing in South Africa**

Guest Editor: Laetitia C. Rispel,
Global Health Action Vol. 8 (2015)

http://www.globalhealthaction.net/index.php/gha/article/view/28205

Human Resources for Health (HRH) are critical to health systems development and functioning, and to patient and population health outcomes. Nurses in South Africa, as elsewhere, make up the largest single group of health service providers and their role in promoting health and providing essential health services is undisputed. However, the country faces a ‘nursing crisis’, characterised by shortages, declining interest in the profession, lack of a caring ethos, and an apparent disjuncture between the needs of nurses on the one hand and those of communities served on the other hand.
Human Resources for Health Information System: Minimum Data Set for Health Workforce Registry

by Marie-Paule Kieny, Najeeb Al Shorbaji, Ramesh Krishnamurthy et al.
World Health Organization, 2015
78 pp. 2.1 MB

http://www.who.int/hrh/statistics/minimun_data_set.pdf?ua=1

This document provides a standard-based tool for health workforce planners and decision-makers developing an electronic system or modifying an existing health information system to count and document all health workers within national and subnational contexts. The minimum data set for health workforce registry provided in this document can be used by ministries of health to support the development of standardized health workforce information systems. Through this approach, rapid aggregation and display of health workforce data for decision-making can be fully realized.

Valuing the work of unpaid community health workers and exploring the incentives to volunteering in rural Africa

by Frida Kasteng, Stella Settumba, Karin Källander et al.
12 pp. 181 kB

http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/05/22/heapol.czv042.full.pdf+html4.c over

Community health worker (CHW) programmes are currently being scaled-up in sub-Saharan Africa to improve access to healthcare. CHWs are often volunteers; from an economic perspective, this raises considerations whether reliance on an unpaid workforce is sustainable and how to appropriately cost and value the work of CHWs. Care must be taken by those costing and designing CHW programmes to acknowledge the opportunity cost of CHWs at the margin and over the long term. Failure to properly consider these issues may lead to cost estimations below the amount necessary to scale up and sustain programmes.

A 6 Step Guide to Platforms in International Development

ICTworks, May 20 2015

Read online at: http://www.ictworks.org/2015/05/20/platforms-and-international-development-a-6-step-guide/

Platform seems to be one of the biggest buzzwords in the field of international development these days. Popping up worldwide, platforms bring opportunities, challenges and questions with them. The biggest of all being: what do we mean when we say platform? It is not simply a website or a new
technology that supports sharing. The platform concept offers a new form of co-creation and collaboration, with less hierarchy, more open innovation and new possibilities to activate participants.

**Use of an Interactive Voice Response System to Deliver Refresher Training in Senegal: Findings from Pilot Implementation and Assessment**

by Kate E. Gilroy, Abdoulaye Diedhiou, Carie Muntifering Cox et al.
CapacityPlus, 2015
54 pp. 3.3 MB

As countries work to scale up the number of health workers, it also makes sense to focus on the existing workforce. Interactive voice response (IVR) is a technology possible with any type of phone - that delivers information via audio recordings and allows users to provide feedback by pressing a number key. IVR allows for the delivery of more robust information than SMS text and does not require smartphones, Internet connectivity, or even full literacy. Findings from Pilot Implementation and Assessment show how the mLearning system was found to be feasible, well-liked by participants, and associated with sustained gains in knowledge.

**Organizational Guide to ICT4D: Leveraging Technology for International Development**

by Carol Bothwell, Kelly Keisling, Christopher Neu et al.
ICTworks, October 2014
40 pp. 2.5 MB

The growing access to information and communication technologies in developing communities is having a transformative effect on the way in which international relief and development organizations carry out their work. Leadership is the single most important factor in building an organization’s ability to adapt to the technology-enabled transformation that is taking place in the humanitarian relief and development sector. The Organizational Guide to ICT4D is intended for internal change leaders and lays out an approach to using technology to improve development outcomes by a variety of stakeholders.

**Free Information Resources Bulletin**

http://www.healthconnect-intl.org/resources.html

“Free Information Resources Bulletin” is a newsletter that offers information on different types of healthcare-related publications – manuals, monographs, books, journals, CD-ROMs and other resources – available for free in hardcopy or electronic format for healthcare professionals from countries with developing economies.
Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies

An Unsupported Preference for Intravenous Antibiotics

by Ho Kwong Li, Ambrose Agweyu, Mike English et al.
7 pp. 318 kB

http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/fetchObject.action?uri=info:doi/10.1371/journal.pmed.1001825&representation=PDF

Antibiotics given intravenously are commonly used in both high- and low-income countries. Available evidence from well-established antibiotic stewardship programmes in high-income settings suggests this is frequently unnecessary. Data from low-income settings, though limited, demonstrate similar findings. Belief in the superiority of intravenous antibiotics is widespread among health professionals and patients, but it is not supported by good evidence. Clarity regarding the harms and benefits of intravenous antibiotics is needed. There is potential to change global clinical practice for the better, reducing health care costs and minimizing harm to patients.

Working Today for the Treatments of Tomorrow: MPP Annual Report 2014

The Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), May 2015
42 pp. 1.9 MB


The Medicines Patent Pool offers a public health-driven business model that aims to lower the prices of HIV medicines and facilitate the development of better-adapted HIV treatments such as fixed-dose combinations and special formulations for children. The Annual Report highlights significant steps to increase access to WHO-recommended HIV medicines in low- and middle-income countries. The MPP signed three licensing agreements and 17 sub-licensing agreements in 2014 and now holds licences for 12 antiretrovirals (ARVs) from six patent holders. Its generic partners have distributed 2.18 billion doses of HIV medicines in 117 countries to date.

Worldwide country situation analysis: response to antimicrobial resistance

Tejinder Chowdhary, Carmem L. Pessoa da Silva, Charles Penn et al.
World Health Organization, April 2015
50 pp. 2.9 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/163468/1/9789241564946_eng.pdf?ua=1&ua=1

Over a 2-year period, from 2013 to 2014, WHO undertook an initial “country situation analysis” in order to determine the extent to which effective practices and structures
to address antimicrobial resistance have been put in place and where gaps remain. A quarter of countries that responded to the survey have national plans to preserve anti-microbial medicines like antibiotics, but many more countries must also step up. The report reveals that while much activity is underway and many governments are committed to addressing the problem, there are major gaps in actions needed across all 6 WHO regions to prevent the misuse of antibiotics and reduce spread of antimicrobial resistance.

**Strategies to Secure Access to Generic Hepatitis C Medicines**

Overcoming patent and regulatory barriers to secure access to generic hepatitis C medicines

9 pp. 985 kB


MSF is in the process of starting to treat people who are living with hepatitis C virus (HCV) in at least nine countries, and therefore is in need of affordable access to direct acting antiviral (DAA) treatments, including those marketed by Gilead Sciences (Gilead) and Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS). This document offers guidance to policy makers to enable access to these medicines to scale up HCV treatment.

**The “child size medicines” concept: policy provisions in Uganda**

by Xavier Nsabagasani, Jasper Ogwal-Okeng, Anthony Mbonye et al.

9 pp. 559 kB

http://www.joppp.org/content/pdf/s40545-015-0025-7.pdf

In 2007, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched the ‘make medicines child size’ (MMCS) campaign by urging countries to prioritize procurement of medicines with appropriate strengths for children’s age and weight and, in child-friendly formulations of rectal and flexible oral solid formulations. The Ugandan health policy documents reflected limited adherence to the MMCS recommendations. This and failure to use evidence based medicines may result into treatment failure and or death. A revision of the current policies and guidelines to better reflect ‘child size’, child appropriate and evidence based medicines for children is recommended.
Drug repurposing and human parasitic protozoan diseases

by Katherine T. Andrews, Gillian Fisher, Tina S. Skinner-Adams

International Journal for Parasitology: Drugs and Drug Resistance, Vol. 4, Issue 2, August 2014, pp. 95-111
17 pp. 2.0 MB


Diseases caused by protozoa and helminths, such as malaria and schistosomiasis, are the cause of most parasite related morbidity and mortality, with an estimated 1.1 million combined deaths annually. Unfortunately, where drugs are available, their usefulness is being increasingly threatened by parasite drug resistance. The need for new drugs drives antiparasitic drug discovery research globally and requires a range of innovative strategies to ensure a sustainable pipeline of lead compounds. In this review the authors discuss one of these approaches, drug repurposing or repositioning, with a focus on major human parasitic protozoan diseases such as malaria, trypanosomiasis, toxoplasmosis, cryptosporidiosis and leishmaniasis.

WHO Drug Information Vol. 28, No. 4, 2014

World Health Organization, January 2015
62 pp. 774 kB

http://www.who.int/medicines/publications/druginformation/WHO_DI_28-4_FullText.pdf?ua=1

The last issue for 2014 opens with a feature article describing how the quest of Nigerian pharmaceutical manufacturers to achieve WHO prequalification for their products is building local manufacturing capacity for quality-assured medicines. Nigeria is making great strides towards competitiveness on international markets, with benefits for the entire region.

Management and Quality of Health Services and Facilities

Business Engagement in Building Healthy Communities: Workshop Summary

by Theresa Wizemann, Rapporteur

Roundtable on Population Health Improvement; Board on Population Health and Public Health Practice; Institute of Medicine, 2015
100 pp. 1.6 MB

http://download.nap.edu/cart/download.cgi?&record_id=19003

The book is the summary of a workshop convened in July 2014 to consider the role of business in improving population health beyond the usual worksite wellness and health promotion activities. The
workshop followed previous roundtable discussions on the importance of applying a health lens to
decision making in non-health sectors and the need for cross-sector collaborations to advance
population health. The workshop was designed to discuss why engaging in population health
improvement is good for business; explore how businesses can be effective key leaders in improving
the health of communities; and discuss ways in which businesses can engage in population health
improvement.

The ethics of health systems research: Selected guidelines and studies

by Sassy Molyneux, Bridget Pratt, Doug Wassenaar et al.
Research in Gender and Ethics (RinGs): Building Stronger Health Systems, May 2015
9 pp. 736 kB

http://resyst.lshtm.ac.uk/sites/resyst.lshtm.ac.uk/files/docs/resourses/RinGs%20ethics%20of%20health%20systems%20final%20for%20circulation.pdf

If you are doing health systems research you have probably grappled with ethical questions related to
your work. Most studies are subject to ethical review before they even begin. But ethical principles
and practice are something that should concern academics throughout the research process. To help
you navigate the expanding world of ethics relevant to health systems research, Research in Gender
and Ethics (RinGs): Building Stronger Health Systems has put together this resource that gathers
together a selection of some of the most useful and interesting frameworks and papers that we have
come across.

Reflections on the development of health economics in low- and middle-income countries

by Anne Mills
9 pp. 710 kB

http://rspb.royalsocietypublishing.org/content/royprsb/281/1789/20140451.full.pdf

Recent innovations in the health economics literature on low- and middle-income countries indicate
how health economics can be shaped to provide more relevant advice for policy. For this to be taken
further, it is critical that such countries develop stronger capacity for health economics within their
universities and research institutes, with greater local commitment of funding.
Building primary care in a changing Europe: case studies

by Dionne S. Kringos, Wienke G.W. Boerma, Allen Hutchinson et al.
European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, 2015
314 pp. 8.8 MB
http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/277940/Building-primary-care-changing-Europe-case-studies.pdf?ua=1

This publication consists of structured case studies summarizing the state of primary care in 31 European countries. These case studies establish the context of primary care in each country; the key governance and economic conditions; the development of the primary care workforce; how primary care services are delivered; and an assessment of the quality and efficiency of the primary-care system.

Assessing chronic disease management in European health systems: country reports

Edited by Ellen Nolte and Cécile Knai
European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, 2015
145 pp. 2.8 MB
http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0010/277939/Assessing-chronic-disease-management.pdf?ua=1

Many countries are exploring innovative approaches to redesign delivery systems to provide appropriate support to people with long-standing health problems. Central to these efforts to enhance chronic care are approaches that seek to better bridge the boundaries between professions, providers and institutions, but, as this study clearly demonstrates, countries have adopted differing strategies to design and implement such approaches.

Counting births and deaths

The Lancet, May 11, 2015
http://www.thelancet.com/series/counting-births-and-deaths

This Lancet Series, which reviews progress since the seminal 2007 series Who counts, describes the growing momentum for civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems in countries and in the global health and development community more broadly, stimulated by the need to monitor progress and accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals post 2015 era. The four papers summarise the need for better empirical data on births and deaths, describe bottlenecks to progress and how they are being overcome, and identify drivers for change and opportunities to sustain progress.
Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection

Universal Health Coverage: an Overview and Lessons from Asia

by Tsung-Mei Cheng
12 pp. 83 kB

Since December 2012, Universal Health Coverage (UHC) became a key global health objective, and both the World Bank and WHO have urged nations to prioritize UHC to achieve sustainable development and global security. UHC is important as a means to fight poverty in the age of deepening income inequality worldwide. It is possible to have, or build, universal, sustainable, 21st century health care systems. The world has seen how it could be done, and also how significant progress can be made with limited re-sources through judicious approaches to organizing the financing and delivery of essential health care services.

Financing universal health coverage - effects of alternative tax structures on public health systems: cross-national modelling in 89 low-income and middle-income countries

by Aaron Reeves, Yannis Gourtsoyannis, Sanjay Basu, et al.
The Lancet - Published Online: 14 May 2015
7 pp. 420 kB

How to finance progress towards universal health coverage in low-income and middle-income countries is a subject of intense debate. The authors investigated how alternative tax systems affect the breadth, depth, and height of health system coverage. They conclude that increasing domestic tax revenues is integral to achieving universal health coverage, particularly in countries with low tax bases. Pro-poor taxes on profits and capital gains seem to support expanding health coverage without the adverse associations with health outcomes observed for higher consumption taxes. Progressive tax policies within a pro-poor framework might accelerate progress toward achieving major international health goals.
Global health security: the wider lessons from the west African Ebola virus disease epidemic

by David L Heymann, Lincoln Chen, Keizo Takemi et al.
18 pp. 469 kB

The Ebola virus disease outbreak in West Africa was unprecedented in both its scale and impact. Out of this human calamity has come renewed attention to global health security - its definition, meaning, and the practical implications for programmes and policy. The Lancet invited a group of respected global health practitioners to reflect on lessons learned, to explore the idea of global health security, and to offer suggestions for next steps.

Poverty-related and neglected diseases - an economic and epidemiological analysis of poverty relatedness and neglect in research and development

Peter von Philipsborn, Fridolin Steinbeis, Max E. Bender et al.
Glob Health Action 2015, 8: 25818 (22 January 2015)
15 pp. 699 kB

Economic growth in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) has raised interest in how disease burden patterns are related to economic development. The authors measured how diseases are related to economic development with the income relation factor (IRF), defined by the ratio of disability-adjusted life-years (DALYs) per 100,000 inhabitants in LMIC versus that in high-income countries. They conclude that the IRF is an intuitive and meaningful metric to highlight shifts in global disease burden patterns. A large shortfall exists in global research and development (R&D) spending for poverty-related and neglected diseases, with strong variations between diseases.

Attacks on Health - Global Report

by Joseph Amon, Aanjalie Collure, Emily Clouse et al.
Human Rights Watch and Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition, May 2015
24 pp. 3.4 MB
https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/HHR%20Attacks%20on%20Hospitals%20brochure%200515%20LOWRES.pdf

Violence and threats against health workers and facilities, along with interference with access to health care, impedes the ability of millions of people around the world from receiving the health services they need. Targeted attacks on health undermine and some-times destroy health systems and infrastructure, force health workers to flee areas where they are most needed, and prevent children from getting essential vaccinations. Over the past several years, there has been increasing
recognition that attacks on and interference with health care violate the right to health and, when they occur during armed conflict, international humanitarian law. However, impunity for attacks too often remains the norm.


Highlights from the May 2015 issue:
- Development goals: health of women, children and adolescents
- Obtaining information on HIV status
- New WHO technology transfer hub
- Legislating for better food
- Adetokunbo Lucas – five decades in public health
- Reviewing vaccination coverage survey reports in Africa
- How to build demand for childhood vaccinations
- Preventing asbestos-related diseases: missed opportunities

Global evidence on inequities in rural health protection

New data on rural deficits in health coverage for 174 countries

Edited by Xenia Scheil-Adlung
International Labour Organization, 2015
83 pp. 1.6 MB

http://www.social-protection.org/gim/gess/ShowRessource.action?lang=EN&ressource.ressourceId=51297

This paper presents global estimates on rural/urban disparities in access to health-care services. The report uses proxy indicators to assess key dimensions of coverage and access involving the core principles of universality and equity. Based on the results of the estimates, policy options are discussed to close the gaps in a multi-sectoral approach addressing issues and their root causes both within and beyond the health sector.

Health care financing in Nigeria: Implications for achieving universal health coverage

by BSC Uzochukwu, MD Ughasoro, E Etiaba et al.
8 pp. 905 KB


The way a country finances its health care system is a critical determinant for reaching universal health coverage (UHC). This is so because it determines whether the health services that are available are affordable to those that need them. This review draws on relevant literature to provide an
overview and the state of health care financing in Nigeria, including policies in place to enhance healthcare financing.

**Old Age, Unemployment and Occupational Injuries Protection**


by Santiago Calvo Ramos, Per Eckefeldt, Luigi Giamboni et al.

European Economy Series, May 2015

424 pp. 12.6 MB(!)


The Report states that the slowing of health care expenditure seen in the post-crisis period is expected to be temporary and that spending is likely rise in coming years. It examines the link between healthcare spending and the demographic structure of the population, the health status of the population, individual and national income, health technology and the legal/institutional setting of the member state concerned. In its conclusions the Council of the EU urged a prompt implementation of the relevant country specific recommendations in order to address the economic and budgetary consequences of ageing. It also advised member states to undertake performance assessments of health and long-term care systems and instigate the necessary reforms to ensure the future sustainability of care.

**Aging, Economic Growth, and Old-Age Security in Asia**

Edited by Donghyun Park, Sang-Hyop Lee, Andrew Mason


312 pp. 3.2 MB


Population aging is perhaps the single biggest economic and social obstacle confronting Asia's future. The region-wide demographic transition towards an older population is fundamentally reshaping the demographic landscape, and is giving rise to two key socio-economic challenges. This timely book provides an in-depth analysis of population aging and the region-wide demographic transition towards an older population. It also presents concrete policy options for tackling these challenges.
Social Transfers

The Impact of Cash Transfers on Local Economies

Can social protection policies promote economic growth? This is one of the questions the latest “Policy in Focus” seeks to answer. The issue features 10 articles, where leading authors and policy practitioners present their research results and evidence, obtained using various methodologies, regarding small-scale programmes to large-scale policies in Latin America, Africa and South-East Asia. The articles analyse how cash transfers can impact the local economy in developing countries, through their effects on investment, productivity, prices, employment and trade.

Social protection for maternity: Key policy trends and statistics

This policy paper: (i) provides a global overview of the organization of maternity cash benefits and maternity care in 188 countries; (ii) analyses trends and recent policies, e.g. extension of maternity protection coverage in a large number of low- and middle-income countries; (iii) describes the negative impacts of fiscal consolidation and adjustment measures in a number of higher-income economies; (iv) presents the costs of a universal benefit to all pregnant women in 57 low and middle income countries; and (v) calls for the expansion of maternity protection to accelerate progress on women’s rights and enhancing the well-being of new mothers, promoting inclusive development and social justice.
Harm Reduction & Drug Use

Tackling Harmful Alcohol Use: Economics and Public Health Policy

Edited by Franco Sassi
240 pp. 4.3 MB


This book provides a detailed examination of trends and social disparities in alcohol consumption. It offers a wide-ranging assessment of the health, social and economic impacts of key policy options for tackling alcohol-related harms in three OECD countries (Canada, the Czech Republic and Germany), extracting relevant policy messages for a broader set of countries.

World No Tobacco Day - May 31, 2015

Each year, the tobacco epidemic kills an estimated 6 million persons worldwide, including about 600,000 who die because of second-hand smoke exposure. If current trends continue, this number is expected to reach 8 million deaths annually by 2030 (see The Tobacco Atlas below).

Sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO) and observed on May 31 each year, World No Tobacco Day highlights the health risks associated with tobacco use and encourages effective actions to reduce tobacco consumption.

The Tobacco Atlas

5th Edition
by Michael Eriksen, Judith Mackay, Neil Schluger et al.
The American Cancer Society, 2015
46 pp. 17.0 MB


The new Fifth Edition of The Tobacco Atlas and its companion website http://tobaccoatlas.org aims to be the most comprehensive, informative, and accessible resource on the most important and current issues in the evolving tobacco epidemic. This edition also presents an invitation to join the tobacco control movement for partners from other communities - including environment, equality, development, and non-communicable disease - whose interests are also dramatically affected by the tobacco epidemic and its human toll.
Electronic cigarettes and nicotine dependence: evolving products, evolving problems

by Caroline O Cobb, Peter S Hendricks and Thomas Eissenberg
4 pp. 948 kB
http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/s12916-015-0355-y.pdf

Electronic cigarettes (ECIGs) use an electric heater to aerosolize a liquid that usually contains propylene glycol, vegetable glycerin, flavorants, and the dependence-producing drug nicotine. ECIG-induced nicotine dependence has become an important concern, as some ECIGs deliver very little nicotine while some may exceed the nicotine delivery profile of a tobacco cigarette. Products with very high nicotine delivery may make quitting ECIGs particularly difficult should users decide to try. External regulatory action, guided by strong science, may be required to ensure that population-level nicotine dependence does not rise.

Inclusion of People with Disabilities

A study of humanitarian financing for older people and people with disabilities, 2010-2011

by Jennifer Baird, Jessica Dinstl, Marcus Skinner
HelpAge International and Handicap International, 2012
16 pp. 860 kB
http://www.helpage.org/download/4f4222be3ce76/

This study quantifies the funding provided by donors to meet the humanitarian needs of two vulnerable groups, older people and people with disabilities. Projects submitted to humanitarian aid appeals were examined, and the findings conclude that the needs of both older people and people with disabilities are being overlooked by the humanitarian system.

Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation

The 2015 Data Report: Putting the Poorest First

by Catherine Blampied, Sara Harcourt, Isabelle de Lichtervelde et al.
The ONE Campaign, May 2015
128 pp. 2.1 MB

2015 is a year that will shape the course of history. A new set of Global Goals – the Sustainable Development Goals – will be launched in September, which will set out the path to a fairer, more prosperous world and an end to extreme poverty. But goals alone are not enough – they need a clear
plan of action and the resources to deliver it. In mid-July, governments will convene for the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: this will be the pivotal point of the year. The 2015 DATA Report looks ahead to the Addis Ababa Conference, setting out key commitments that can be game-changers, particularly for those living in the poorest nations, the least developed countries (LDCs).

**Universal Sustainable Development Goals: Understanding the Transformational Challenge for Developed Countries**

by Derek Osborn, Amy Cutter and Farooq Ullah
Stakeholder Forum, May 2015
25 pp. 1.0 MB


This study proposes a new method of analysis of the goals and targets to assist in identifying those which will represent for developed countries the biggest transformational challenges, in the sense of requiring new economic paradigms and changes in patterns of behaviour as well as new policies and commitment of resources. The report suggests that the method of analysis it employs should now be used more widely to explore more deeply the major transformational challenges which the SDGs present to developed countries, as they begin to plan their SDG implementation strategies.

**Third Report on Progress Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Kyrgyzstan**

by Rafkat Hasanov, Nuria Choibaeva, Gulnura Dyikanbaeva et al.
United Nations Kyrgyzstan, 2013
133 pp. 6.1 MB


The report emphasizes two new moments in the process of achieving the MDGs in Kyrgyzstan. First, Kyrgyzstan is on a trajectory to achieve MDG 4 (reducing child mortality). According to the Global assessment of survival of mothers, newborns and children, Kyrgyzstan for the first time included in the 15 countries that are on track to achieve MDG4. Second, in late 2012, the country launched the Millennium Acceleration Framework for MDG 5 (maternal health), which aims at identifying the main bottlenecks to achieve targets of MDG 5, as well as develop an action plan to address these issues.
The impact of climate change on the achievement of the post-2015 sustainable development goals

by Alberto Ansante, Pabu Greño, Valerie Houlden et al.
HR Wallingford and Metroeconomica, May 2015
84 pp. 1.4 MB

Governments are due to negotiate a climate agreement at the 21st Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, France at the end of 2015. The impact of the climate agreement on global development by 2030 will be significant and, although it is unlikely to significantly impact global warming or the frequency and severity of weather-related disasters in the period up to 2030, it will play a major role thereafter.

Helminth Elimination in the Pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals: A “Worm Index” for Human Development

by Peter J. Hotez and Jennifer R. Herricks
6 pp. 187 kB

There is a “strong association” between helminth infections and reduced human development, argue the authors. Helminth infections like hookworm, schistosomiasis, and lymphatic filariasis have major impacts on human productivity, reducing childhood nutrition, development, cognition, and education. US studies in the early 20th century showed that persistent hookworm infections in childhood reduced future wage earning by 40%. The authors found a statistically significant negative association between the UNDP human development index and worm indices of helminth infections in the world’s most populated countries. Their conclusion: “It may become essential to give due consideration to eliminating helminth infections as a means to achieve SDGs.”

World Development Indicators 2015

International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/The World Bank, 2015
171 pp. 21.2 MB(!)

The 2015 edition of World Development Indicators (WDI) provides high-quality cross-country comparable statistics about development and people’s lives around the globe.
The Little Data Book 2015 (248 pp. 12.2. MB), a pocket edition of the WDI, can be accessed at:

In It Together: Why Less Inequality Benefits All
by Michael Förster, Monika Queisser, Marlène Mohier et al.
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), 21 May 2015
Read online (300 pp.) at:

The gap between rich and poor keeps widening. Growth, if any, has disproportionally benefited higher income groups while lower income households have been left behind. This long-run increase in income inequality not only raises social and political concerns, but also economic ones. This book highlights the key areas where inequalities are created and where new policies are required, including: the consequences of current consolidation policies; structural labour market changes with rising non-standard work and job polarization; persisting gender gaps; the challenge of high wealth concentration, and the role for redistribution policies.

CONFERENCES & TRAINING

All documentation for the Sixty-eighth World Health Assembly (WHA68)

18 - 26 May 2015
http://apps.who.int/gb/e/e_wha68.html

World Health Assembly (WHA) was in Geneva for its 68th annual meeting, with WHO reform and the post-2015 development priorities topping the agenda. WHO’s much-criticized response to West Africa’s Ebola epidemic has led to a re-evaluation of the organization’s role in global health and emergency response. On the docket at WHA68 are plans for changes to increase functionality of the organization, through programmatic, governance, and managerial reform. Other key foci include: Antimicrobial resistance and the rise in non-communicable diseases around the world. You find all WHO information on the event (including documents, press releases, daily journals, speeches, NGO statements) here: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/2015/wha68/en/
2nd International Quality Forum

2-3 July 2015 – Heidelberg, Germany

Jointly organised by evaplan International Health at the University Hospital, Heidelberg, the AQUA Institute, Göttingen and the Institute of Public Health, University of Heidelberg with the support of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

The 2nd International Quality Forum will discuss how quality improvement (QI) mechanisms can contribute to health system strengthening and how this contribution can be best measured. This will be illustrated by four aspects affecting health systems: disease outbreaks – with a focus on Ebola; post-conflict settings; patient safety and, finally, the linkages of QI mechanisms within a facility as well as between levels of health systems. The aim of the Forum is therefore to critically analyse QI mechanisms and approaches against health system strengthening (HSS) targets and to formulate recommendations to ensure QI mechanisms have an impact on upcoming health system strengthening measures.

Please confirm your participation by Monday 15 June at: http://s572455629.online.de/
The number of participants is limited to 90. It is operated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Master Course “Medical Informatics” - Focusing on Telemedicine, e-Health and Telematics

This postgraduate course enables students to reinforce, deepen and expand their theoretical and factual knowledge to meet the requirements of modern research and development fields in the telematic, telemedicine and e-health industries, as well as in service provider fields in national or international health networks.

Degree: Master of Science
Duration: 3 semesters
Start: 01st October 2015
The course has unlimited entries
Language: English
Fee: No tuition fees, only € 52,00 student service fee per semester
Location: Pfarrkirchen, Rottal-Inn, Bavaria, Germany

Application:
https://www.th-deg.de/en/international-office/international-students/international-applications
Online course - Africa: Sustainable Development for All?

Learn what progress Africa has made towards inclusive development and consider challenges post-2015 in this free online course.

https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/africa-sustainable-development

Starts 22 June 2015
Duration: 6 weeks
3 hours per week
Certificates available

Africa as a continent is rich in natural resources and minerals and has increasing rates of wealth in some countries. The course will explore why there continues to be many sub-Saharan African countries which perform poorly on development indicators for reducing poverty, hunger and unemployment and improving maternal health and access to quality reproductive health services.

E-Learning for Publishing and Research Skills

Online lectures and interactive courses, Elsevier Publishing Campus

Free online lectures. Interactive training courses. Expert advice. Resources to support you in publishing your world-class book or journal article. Certificates to recognize your efforts.

The Elsevier Publishing Campus is an online platform offering free lectures, interactive training and professional advice. Perhaps you are interested in writing a journal article or submitting a book proposal; Elsevier Publishing Campus has the resources to help you achieve your goals.

To sign up go to: https://www.publishingcampus.elsevier.com/
TIPS & TRICKS

Make more use of the CTRL key in MS WORD

Instead of taking your hands off the keyboard when typing and moving the mouse to a menu or icon you can make use of the keyboard shortcuts (hotkeys) that can save time and make life easier. Hotkeys are achieved by pressing a combination of keys, normally holding down the CONTROL (CTRL) key and pressing another key, then letting go of the CTRL key. Microsoft WORD contains many of these keyboard shortcuts, and if you know how to utilise them, they can make WORD easier to use and more productive.

Here a list of CTRL hotkeys:

- CTRL and A  Selects all in the current document
- CTRL and B  Bold text
- CTRL and C  Copies the item or text to the Clipboard and can be pasted using CTRL and V
- CTRL and D  Displays the Font dialogue box
- CTRL and E  Centre Alignment
- CTRL and F  Displays the Find dialogue box, to search the current document
- CTRL and G  Displays the Go to dialogue box, to go to a specific location in the current document
- CTRL and H  Displays the Replace dialogue box
- CTRL and I  Italic text
- CTRL and J  Full Justification
- CTRL and K  Create Hyperlink
- CTRL and L  Left Alignment
- CTRL and M  Tab
- CTRL and N  Creates a new document
- CTRL and O  Displays the Open File dialogue box
- CTRL and P  Displays the Print dialogue box
- CTRL and R  Right Alignment
- CTRL and S  Displays the Save dialogue box
- CTRL and U  Underline text
CTRL and V  Pastes the copied item or text from the Clipboard into the current position in the document
CTRL and X  Cuts the item or text selected to the Clipboard
CTRL and Y  Redo the last undone action
CTRL and Z  Undoes the last action
CTRL and F2  Show Print preview
CTRL and F4  Closes the active document window
CTRL and F6  Opens the next document window
CTRL and ENTER  Insert Page Break

**Insert text in front of table at document beginning**

Did it happen to you? You placed a table at the beginning of a WORD document and would like to insert some text before the table but you can't move the cursor there.

Solution: Position the cursor into the first row of the table. From the Menu select: Table | Split Table and voila - an empty line has been inserted in front of the table.