We hope 2016 is off to a good start for you!

We start this year with two new publications looking at very tangible programmes in West Africa and Latin America:

- Our newest case study in the German Health Practice Collection analyses a programme to expand access to family planning in Côte d’Ivoire through social marketing of contraceptives.
- In this month’s ‘in focus’ article we describe a partnership to treat children with heart diseases in Bolivia, where poverty and a high altitude combine to make these conditions very prevalent.

But there are also a few ‘big picture’ highlights in this newsletter:

- The Institute of Development Studies reflects on: The Future of Social Protection – Where Next?
- 11 researcher and clinicians look at the state of their fields and and tell you what they hope to see in 2016: Progress in Medicine: Experts Take Stock
- WHO experts help you unpack the most en vogue concepts in global health: Health systems strengthening, universal health coverage, health security and resilience

As always it is worth scrolling through the whole newsletter or at least the sections on ‘your’ topics, as we can only point out a few items in the editorial. Enjoy the reading!

Your editorial team
Dieter Neuvians, Viktor Siebert, Anna von Roenne

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ONLINE RESOURCES

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

Social marketing in Côte d’Ivoire: Working for sexual and reproductive health and rights in a country affected by civil war


Social marketing of contraceptives aims to provide women and families greater choice and control over their lives. This case study on Côte d’Ivoire describes how the local organisation AIMAS, with support from Germany, has taken the lead in scaling-up family planning in a (post) civil war context.

Bolivia: a partnership to care for children with heart diseases

http://health.bmz.de/events/In_focus/Achieving_more_together/index.html?pk_campaign=01_2016

Children in Bolivia are heavily affected by heart diseases, but the country’s treatment facilities lack equipment and qualified staff to alleviate their suffering. In 2013, German Development Cooperation, the medical technology company Dräger and local partners joined forces to change this.

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

Protecting Persons with Diverse Sexual Orientations and Gender Identities

A Global Report on UNHCR’s Efforts to Protect Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Asylum-Seekers and Refugees
by Nishin Nathwani, Lea Piccot and Amisha Buddeo
UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 21 December 2015
63 pp. 2.0 MB

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/566140454.pdf

The document presents key findings from a project undertaken globally to assess progress made by UNHCR country and regional operations to effectively protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) asylum-seekers and refugees. The key findings are presented along the follow-
ing axes: legal, cultural and social context; outreach activities; displacement conditions; asylum and durable solutions; training on issues related to sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI); operational guidelines and advocacy efforts.

**Interventions to Reduce the Prevalence of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting in African Countries**

by Rigmor C. Berg and Eva Denison

The International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), January 2013

155 pp. 1.7 MB

[http://www.3ieimpact.org/media/filer_public/2013/02/06/sr009_fgm_bergdenison.pdf](http://www.3ieimpact.org/media/filer_public/2013/02/06/sr009_fgm_bergdenison.pdf)

The authors review studies that use randomized control trials and qualitative designs to analyse the effectiveness of interventions to reduce the prevalence of female genital mutilation. The evidence shows that changes in the law are by themselves not enough. Interventions that were not aligned with community needs, or did not involve religious leaders, suffered low attendance and drop outs.

**Tracking the Children of the Millennium: Insights from a longitudinal cohort study**

by Prerna Banati, Paul Dornan and Caroline Knowles

UNICEF Innocenti Research Brief 2015 - 03

5 pp. 815 kB


Longitudinal research can help countries meet the challenges of sustainable development. The examples presented in this Brief serve to demonstrate the unique advantages of having access to longitudinal studies to complement cross-sectional surveys and administrative series. The Brief reviews data from the Young Lives cohorts, reflecting on evidence from the 2000-2015 Millennium Development period.
Global goals inspire action. They forge new pathways towards a better future and they demonstrate just how inextricably linked we are in this world. Early on in the AIDS response we learned that responding to AIDS could not be done in isolation. We would need a people-centred approach that left no one behind. And the response became an example of what a holistic development agenda could look like when evidence and human rights meet hope and resilience. By reaching and exceeding Millennium Development Goal 6, we halted and reversed the AIDS epidemic and ensured more than 15 million people had access to life-saving HIV treatment. When goals are reached we reach even higher.

What in the world is “meHealth”?
It’s the combination of mHealth and e-health technologies and services to give personalized health support to anyone in the health system, whether patients, nurses, doctors, community health workers, administrations, or anywhere in between. In the simplest terms, meHealth is about communicating information within a health care system to improve desirable health outcomes.

Since 1985, Malawi has experienced a dual epidemic of HIV and tuberculosis (TB) which has been moderated recently by the advent of antiretroviral therapy (ART). The aim of this study was to describe the association over several decades between HIV/AIDS, the
scale-up of ART and TB case notifications. The authors conclude that the rise and fall of TB in Malawi between 1985 and 2014 was strongly associated with HIV infection and ART scale-up; this has implications for ending the TB epidemic in high HIV-TB burden countries.

**Effect of Repeated Anthelminthic Treatment on Malaria in School Children in Kenya: A Randomized, Open-Label, Equivalence Trial**

by Stella Kepha, Fred Nuwaha, Birgit Nikolay et al.


10 pp. 559 kB

http://jid.oxfordjournals.org/content/213/2/266.full.pdf+html

School children living in the tropics are often concurrently infected with *Plasmodium* and helminth parasites. It has been hypothesized that immune responses evoked by helminths may modify malaria-specific immune responses and increase the risk of malaria. The findings of this study suggest that repeated deworming does not alter risks of clinical malaria or malaria parasitemia among school children and that school-based deworming in Africa may have no adverse consequences for malaria.

**Safety of insecticide-treated mosquito nets for infants and their mothers: randomized controlled community trial in Burkina Faso**

by Guangyu Lu, Corneille Traoré, Peter Meissner et al.

*Malaria Journal* 2015, 14:527 (30 December 2015)

7 pp. 779 kB

http://www.malariajournal.com/content/pdf/s12936-015-1068-6.pdf

Insecticide-treated bed nets (ITNs) are now the main tool for malaria prevention in endemic areas. Synthetic pyrethroids are the only group of insecticides recommended by the World Health Organization for the use on ITNs. There are only few studies which have specifically investigated potential adverse effects of frequent exposure to ITNs in the vulnerable group of young infants and their mothers. The authors conclude that the study provides further evidence for ITNs being sufficiently safe in children and even in newborns. The association with headache in mothers could be explained by them handling the ITNs more intensely or it could be a chance finding.
The performance of a rapid diagnostic test in detecting malaria infection in pregnant women and the impact of missed infections

by John E. Williams, Matthew Cairns, Fanta Njie et al.
Clinical Infectious Diseases - Advance Access, published December 31, 2015
26 pp. 1.1 MB
http://m.cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2015/12/30/cid.civ1198.full.pdf

Intermittent screening and treatment in pregnancy (ISTp) is a potential strategy for the control of malaria during pregnancy. However, the frequency and consequences of malaria infections missed by a rapid diagnostic test (RDT) for malaria are a concern. The authors conclude that the sensitivity of an RDT to detect malaria in primigravidae and secundigravidae was high at enrolment in three of four countries, and, in Ghana, at subsequent antenatal clinic visits. In Ghana, RDT negative malaria infections were not associated with adverse birth outcomes but missed infections were uncommon.

Computer-vision-based technology for fast, accurate and cost effective diagnosis of malaria

by Bina Srivastava, Anupkumar R. Anvikar, Susanta K. Ghosh et al.
Malaria Journal, December 2015, 14:526 - First online: 30 December 2015
6 pp. 1.0 MB

Microscopy has long been considered to be the gold standard for diagnosis of malaria despite the introduction of newer assays. However, it has many challenges like requirement of trained microscopists and logistic issues. A vision based device that can diagnose malaria, provide speciation and estimate parasitaemia was evaluated. The authors conclude that the ability of the device to detect parasitaemia as compared with microscopy, was within 50% in 71.3% of cases and demonstrated a correlation coefficient of 0.89.

Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness

Using Co-authorship Networks to Map and Analyse Global Neglected Tropical Disease Research with an Affiliation to Germany

by Max Ernst Bender, Suzanne Edwards, Peter von Philipsborn et al.
21 pp. 4.0 MB
Research on Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) has increased in recent decades, and significant need-gaps in diagnostic and treatment tools remain. The share of NTD publications with German affiliations is approximately half of its share in other fields of medical research. This finding underlines the need to identify barriers and expand Germany's otherwise strong research activities towards NTDs. Identifying knowledge hubs within individual researcher networks complements traditional scientometric indicators that are used to identify opportunities for collaboration. Using free tools to analyse research processes and output could facilitate data-driven health policies. The findings contribute to the prioritisation of efforts in German NTD research at a time of impending local and global policy decisions.

Scabies and Global Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases

by Bart J. Currie
2 pp. 350 kB

The effect of scabies extends beyond itching and sleep disturbance. In many resource-poor settings and especially in tropical regions, scabies is a major underlying cause of high rates of bacterial skin infections and their consequences. The classification of scabies as a neglected tropical disease and the acknowledgement that it is an important communicable disease in resource-poor countries pave the way for support for and coordination of research efforts and development of scabies control programs to be embedded in the expanding framework for the control of neglected tropical diseases.

Efficacy and safety of oxantel pamoate in school-aged children infected with Trichuris trichiura on Pemba Island, Tanzania: a parallel, randomised, controlled, dose-ranging study

by Wendelin Moser, Said M Ali, Shaali M Ame et al.
Lancet Infect Dis 2016; 16: 53–60 - Published Online: September 18, 2015
8 pp. 362 kB

Commonly used drugs for preventive chemotherapy against soil-transmitted helminths (ie, albendazole and mebendazole) show low efficacy against Trichuris trichiura. Recent studies with oxantel pamoate revealed good cure rates and high egg-reduction rates against T trichiura. The authors’ dose-finding study revealed an excellent tolerability profile of oxantel pamoate in children infected with T trichiura. An optimum therapeutic dose range of 15–30 mg/kg oxantel pamoate was defined.
Local Heat Application for the Treatment of Buruli Ulcer: Results of a Phase II Open Label Single Center Non Comparative Clinical Trial

by Moritz Vogel, Pierre F. Bayi, Marie-Thérèse Ruf et al.
9 pp. 850 kB
http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/62/3/342.full.pdf+html

Buruli ulcer (BU) is a necrotizing skin disease most prevalent among West African children. The causative organism, Mycobacterium ulcerans, is sensitive to temperatures above 37°C. Local thermotherapy is therefore a highly effective, simple, cheap and safe treatment. It has in particular potential as home-based remedy for BU suspicious lesions at community level where laboratory confirmation is not available.

Microcephaly in Brazil potentially linked to the Zika virus epidemic

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), 24 November 2015
12 pp. 721 kB

The increase in congenital microcephaly observed in Brazil is of concern. Its emergence a few months after the introduction of Zika virus (ZIKV) infection into the country raises questions about the possible role of the infection in congenital microcephaly. There is currently only ecological evidence of an association between the two events. A possible causative nature of the association cannot be ruled out with the evidence available.

see also:

Zika virus epidemic in the Americas: potential association with microcephaly and Guillain-Barré syndrome

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), 10 December 2015
14 pp. 918 kB

A Zika virus outbreak in the Americas and the South Pacific is evolving rapidly, and its spread is likely to continue as the vector species Aedes aegypti and Aedes albopictus are widely distributed there. While a significant increase in the number of newborns presenting with a low head circumference seems established in the north-eastern states of Brazil, the magnitude of the increase cannot be precisely estimated. Similarly, a link with Zika virus infection cannot be confirmed until the ongoing investigations are completed.
Emerging Viral Diseases: The One Health Connection

Workshop Summary (2015)
Rapporteurs: Eileen R. Choffnes and Alison Mack
Forum on Microbial Threats; Board on Global Health; Institute of Medicine
336 pp. 11.6 MB
http://download.nap.edu/cart/download.cgi?id=18975

In the past half century, deadly disease outbreaks caused by novel viruses of animal origin - Nipah virus in Malaysia, Hendra virus in Australia, Hantavirus in the United States, Ebola virus in Africa, along with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus), several influenza subtypes, and the SARS (sudden acute respiratory syndrome) and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) coronaviruses - have underscored the urgency of understanding factors influencing viral disease emergence and spread. The book is the summary of a public workshop hosted in March 2014 to examine factors driving the appearance, establishment, and spread of emerging, re-emerging and novel viral diseases and the scientific and policy approaches to improving domestic and international capacity to detect and respond to global outbreaks of infectious disease.

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

Forest insects as food: humans bite back

Proceedings of a workshop on Asia-Pacific resources and their potential for development, 19-21 February 2008, Chiang Mai, Thailand
Edited by Patrick B. Durst, Dennis V. Johnson, Robin N. Leslie et al.
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Thailand 2010
241 pp. 4.0 MB
http://www.fao.org/docrep/012/i1380e/i1380e00.pdf

Humans have been eating insects for millennia and, even today, the practice remains far more widespread than is generally believed. Although modern society has largely shunned insects from the dinner table, entomophagy - the practice of eating insects - is getting renewed attention from nutritionists, food security experts, environmentalists and rural development specialists. Based on contributions from some of the world’s leading experts on entomophagy, this publication highlights the potential of edible forest insects as a current and future food source, documents their contribution to rural livelihoods and highlights important linkages between edible forest insects and forest management.
**Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Obesity in South Africa 2015-2020**

by Lynn Moeng Mahlangu, Pontsho Sepoloane, Aaron Manyuha et al.

Department of Health, Republic of South Africa, April 2015

57 pp. 1.3 MB


The strategy document focuses on six broad goals including preventing childhood obesity, enabling access to healthy food and promoting physical activity. At the centre of the strategy is a broad emphasis on communication, education and mobilization around growing obesity rates in the country. The document also notes a particular focus on preventing childhood obesity due to the profound impact obesity can have on childhood development.

**Beverage purchases from stores in Mexico under the excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages: observational study**

by M Arantxa Colchero, Barry M Popkin, Juan A Rivera et al.

BMJ 2016;352:h6704

9 pp. 505 kB

http://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/352/bmj.h6704.full.pdf

What has been the effect on purchases of beverages from stores in Mexico one year after implementation of the excise tax on sugar sweetened beverages? The authors conclude that the tax on sugar sweetened beverages was associated with reductions in purchases of taxed beverages and increases in purchases of untaxed beverages. Continued monitoring is needed to understand purchases longer term, potential substitutions, and health implications.

**What factors affect sustained adoption of safe water, hygiene and sanitation technologies?**

by Kristyna Hulland, Nina Martin, Robert Dreibelbis et al.

3ie Systematic Review Summary 2, 2015

47 pp. 1.0 MB

http://www.3ieimpact.org/media/filer_public/2015/08/23/srs_2_factors_for_sustained_wash_adoption.pdf

Safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) behaviours, such as treating drinking water, washing hands at key times or using a latrine rather than defecating in open spaces, are cornerstones of building strong, healthy communities and reducing mortality due to diarrhoea and other preventable diseases. Many studies have shown the health benefits of WASH, and factors that affect initial adoption of short-term WASH use. Few have assessed the determinants of
Long-term, sustained WASH practice. Drawing on a full systematic review, this summary reviews the evidence on factors that motivate sustained adoption of WASH technologies.

**Reinvent the Toilet Challenge - Strategy Overview**

Read online at:
http://www.gatesfoundation.org/What-We-Do/Global-Development/Reinvent-the-Toilet-Challenge

With the knowledge that conventional sanitation is not feasible in many resource-poor areas, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is working to develop durable and safe sanitation technologies that don’t depend on huge infrastructure investments. Its “Reinvent the Toilet Challenge” is teaming with universities to “build toilets that are their own [waste] treatment plants” with no need to connect to water, sewer or electrical lines. Grants have been awarded to sixteen researchers around the world who are using innovative approaches - based on fundamental engineering processes - for the safe and sustainable management of human waste.

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

**Emerging Technologies in Distance Education**

Edited by George Veletsianos
Published by AU Press, Athabasca University
350 pp. 6.5 MB
http://www.aupress.ca/books/120177/ebook/99Z_Veletsianos_2010-Emerging_Technologies_in_Distance_Education.pdf

This book harnesses the dispersed knowledge of international experts who highlight pedagogical, organizational, cultural, social, and economic factors that influence the adoption and integration of emerging technologies in distance education. The book provides expert advice on how educators can launch effective and engaging distance education initiatives in response to technological advancements, changing mindsets, and economic and organizational pressures. The volume goes beyond the hype surrounding Web 2.0 technologies and highlights the important issues that researchers and educators need to consider to enhance educational practice.
Health System Governance, Health Workforce and Health Information Systems

The Future of Knowledge Sharing in a Digital Age: Exploring Impacts and Policy Implications for Development

by Jon Gregson, John M. Brownlee, Rachel Playforth et al.
Institute of Development Studies (IDS), March 2015
78 pp. 1.9 MB
http://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/5946/ER125_TheFutureofKnowledgeSharinginaDigitalAge.pdf

We live in a Digital Age that gives us instant access to information at greater and greater volumes. The rapid growth of digital content and tools is already changing how we create, consume and distribute knowledge. Even though globally participation in the Digital Age remains uneven, more and more people are accessing and contributing digital content every day. Over the next 15 years, developing countries are likely to experience sweeping changes in how states and societies engage with knowledge. These changes hold the potential to improve people’s lives by making information more available, increasing avenues for political and economic engagement, and making government more transparent and responsive.

Are development professionals too resistant to new technologies?

by Naki B. Mendoza
deveximpact, 08 January 2016
Read online at:

A healthy tension exists in the development community about whether the uptake of new technologies can produce large-scale change. Few can deny the benefits that connectivity, computation and communication offer in the digital age. But opinions vary — at times widely — on the feasibility of spreading that digital dividend to development projects that serve the world’s poor.

A shortened verbal autopsy instrument for use in routine mortality surveillance systems

by Peter Serina, Ian Riley, Andrea Stewart et al.
10 pp. 1.4 MB
Verbal autopsy (VA) is recognized as the only feasible alternative to comprehensive medical certification of deaths in settings with no or unreliable vital registration systems. However, a barrier to its use by national registration systems has been the amount of time and cost needed for data collection. Therefore, a short VA instrument (VAI) is needed. The authors developed a shortened VAI using a systematic approach, and assessed its performance when administered using hand-held electronic tablets and analyzed using Tariff 2.0. The length of a VA questionnaire was shortened by almost 50% without a significant drop in performance. The shortened VAI developed reduces the burden of time and resources required for data collection and analysis of cause of death data in civil registration systems.

Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies

Ensuring Fair Evaluation of and Access to Tuberculosis Treatment

Created by the US HIV activist organisation the 'Treatment Action Group', the document begins by broadly outlining regulators roles before covering issues like pre-approval access to TB drugs as well as accompanying concerns regarding equitable access. These concerns are illustrated with country examples. The guide then moves on to explain how TB drugs move from research into clinical trials and also cases of accelerated access to drugs like bedaquiline and delamanid. Finally, the guide outlines strategies activists can use to increase access to new TB drugs such as import waivers, off-label use and operational research.

Management and Quality of Health Services and Facilities

Global Standards for Quality Health Care Services for Adolescents

A Guide to Implement a Standards-Driven Approach to Improve the Quality of Health-Care Services for Adolescents
by Subidita Chatterjee and Valentina Baltag
World Health Organization and UNAIDS, 2015

http://www.treatmentactiongroup.org/sites/g/files/g450272/f/201512/TB%20Regulatory%20Guide.pdf

Global initiatives are urging countries to prioritize quality as a way of reinforcing human rights-based approaches to health. Yet evidence from both high- and low-income countries shows that services for adolescents are highly fragmented, poorly coordinated and uneven in quality. Pockets of excellent practice exist, but, overall, services need significant improvement and should be brought into conformity with existing guidelines.

**Impact of Health Systems Strengthening on Health**

by Laurel Hatt, Ben Johns, Catherine Connor et al.  
USAID’s Health Finance and Governance (HFG) Project, June 2015  
66 pp. 744 kB  
https://www.hfgproject.org/?download=10632

USAID defines health systems strengthening as strategies, responses, and activities designed to sustainably improve country health system performance. The researchers identified 66 systematic reviews that met the inclusion criteria for analysis from the McMaster University Health Systems Evidence Database and the online database PubMed. Together, these reviews cover more than 1,500 individual peer-reviewed studies on the effects of health systems strengthening interventions on health status and health system outcomes. The main conclusion from this literature review is that health systems strengthening interventions produce substantial positive effects on health status and health system outcomes.

**Improving Diagnosis in Health Care**

Editors: Erin P. Balogh, Bryan T. Miller, and John R. Ball  
Committee on Diagnostic Error in Health Care; Board on Health Care Services; Institute of Medicine; The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2015  
472 pp. 4.1 MB  
http://download.nap.edu/cart/download.cgi?&record_id=21794

Getting the right diagnosis is a key aspect of health care - it provides an explanation of a patient’s health problem and informs subsequent health care decisions. The diagnostic process is a complex, collaborative activity that involves clinical reasoning and information gathering to determine a patient’s health problem. Diagnostic errors - inaccurate or delayed diagnoses - persist throughout all settings of care and continue to harm an unacceptable number of pa-
tients. The committee concluded that improving the diagnostic process is not only possible, but also represents a moral, professional, and public health imperative.

**Systems science and systems thinking for public health: a systematic review of the field**

*BMJ Open* by Gemma Carey, Eleanor Malbon, Nicole Carey et al.

BMJ Open 2015;5:e009002 (11 November 2015)

9 pp. 594 kB

https://www.academia.edu/attachments/40830972/download_file?st=MTQ1MTMyNDAzNCw5NC4yMTkuMTUwJeyJiwMTQxMjE3L3swp-toolbar

This study provides a systematic review of the application of systems science and systems thinking to the field of public health. It identified critical shortcomings in the use of systems methodologies being used. The review showed that public health is currently not engaging with the full range of systems methodologies. The sample of articles is representative but not comprehensive, which is a limitation of the study.

**Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection**

**Unpacking universal health coverage in India: Implications for health**

by Arima Mishra

Social Medicine, Volume 9, Number 2, October 2015

7 pp. 628 kB


Since the World Health Report 2010, universal health coverage has received increased policy attention worldwide. Endorsing this global call, India like many other low and middle income countries embark on the path to achieve universal health coverage by proposing several health sector reforms. Though universal health coverage has received significant political attention in the country, there is a danger of limiting the debates to issues relating to financing and provisioning of medical services. The authors argue that the current debates about universal health coverage should draw critical attention to (re) prioritization of primary health care, good governance and health equity keeping health and its determinants in mind rather than medical care alone.

**Universal health coverage: The strange romance of The Lancet, MEDICC, and Cuba**

by Howard Waitzkin

Social Medicine Vol 9, No 2 (2015)

5 pp. 300 kB
As a key supporter of universal health coverage (UHC), The Lancet recently partnered with Medical Education Cooperation with Cuba (MEDICC), a non-governmental organization based in the United States, to produce a Spanish-language translation of The Lancet’s series on UHC in Latin America. This translation was launched as part of CubaSalud 2015, an international health conference held during April 2015 in Havana, Cuba. UHC does not mean “healthcare for all” (HCA) – a healthcare delivery system that provides equal services for the entire population regardless of an individual’s or family’s financial resources. The editors of The Lancet and MEDICC Review should explain more fully the decisions to translate the UHC series and to launch the translation in Havana, and they should provide “equal time” for critiques of UHC and presentations of endeavors to achieve HCA.

Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance: Issues and results

Report on a workshop held at the Ferdi on June 4 and 5, 2015
Edited by: Daniel Clarke, Alain de Janvry, Elisabeth Sadoulet et al.
Fondation pour les Etudes et Recherches sur le Développement International (FERDI)
108 pp. 2.8 MB

Losses due to natural disasters have increased sharply over the last 30 years. This has been caused by population growth, greater concentration of population in urban environments, and more accumulation of assets that can be destroyed by natural events. Hazards have also risen with climate change and are expected to grow exponentially. Nearly 90% of disaster related deaths between 1991 and 2005 occurred in developing nations. In the 2015 Nepal earthquake, only some 3% of the damage reaching 25% of GDP was insured. Lack of financial protection against disasters leads to slow recovery, costly financing of relief and reconstruction, and political manipulation in the allocation of post-disaster assistance.

The Future of Social Protection - Where Next?

by Stephen Devereux, Keetie Roelen, Martina Ulrichs et al.
4 pp. 225 kB
http://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/7168/PB106_AGID260_SocProtec_online2.pdf?sequence=3

Social protection is one of the success stories of development policy in the early twenty-first century, leading to questions about its future direction. Evidence suggests that social protection is likely to experience further expansion in the future, becoming a response to income inequality and social inequities as well as to poverty and vulnerability. It will become increasingly systems-based, with national governance receiving more attention, and it will continue to be shaped by economic shocks and political crises. In light of these developments, the Centre for Social Protection has identified several important recommendations for policymakers.
Old Age, Unemployment and Occupational Injuries Protection

**EURAPA moves to open access: Research trends and challenges in physical activity in old age**

by Yael Netz and Wiebren Zijlstra
European Review of Aging and Physical Activity 2015, 12:1 (7 October 2015)
6 pp. 427 kB

http://www.eurapa.net/content/pdf/s11556-015-0149-4.pdf

EURAPA is the official publication of the European Group for Research into Elderly and Physical Activity (EGREPA). EGREPA fills an important niche in the study of physical activity for the elderly. It is now widely recognized that having an open access to research results contributes to better and more efficient science, and to innovation in the public and private sectors. The global trend towards offering free online (open) access to the results of publicly-funded research (publications and data) has been a core strategy in the European Commission to accelerate the circulation of knowledge and thus innovation. In accordance of this trend, the European Union (EU) is striving to improve access to scientific information so that everyone with access to the Internet can benefit from the latest scientific insights.

Social Transfers

**Unconditional Government Social Cash Transfer in Africa Does not Increase Fertility**

by Tia Palermo, Sudhanshu Handa, Amber Peterman et al.
Zambia Child Grant Programme (CGP) Evaluation Team, November 2015
36 pp. 303 kB


In Africa, one of the key barriers to the scale-up of unconditional cash transfer (UCT) programmes is the notion held by politicians, and even the general public, that such programmes will induce the poor to have more children. The hard evidence on this question is scanty. The current study uses evaluation data from the Zambian Child Grant Programme (CGP), a large-scale UCT targeted to households with a child under the age of five at programme initiation and evaluates the impact of transfers on fertility and child-fostering decisions. The results contribute to the small literature that rigorously documents the fertility impacts of unconditional cash transfer programmes in developing countries.
Inclusion of People with Disabilities

**How new technology helps blind people explore the world**

http://www.ted.com/talks/chieko_asakawa_how_new_technology_helps_blind_people_explore_the_world

How can technology help improve our quality of life? How can we navigate the world without using the sense of vision? Inventor and IBM Fellow Chieko Asakawa, who's been blind since the age of fourteen, is working on answering these questions. In a charming demo, she shows off some new technology that's helping blind people explore the world ever more independently ... because, she suggests, when we design for greater accessibility, everyone benefits.

Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation

**WHO's to blame? The World Health Organization and the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa**

by Adam Kamradt-Scott
Third World Quarterly - Published online: 04 January 2016
19 pp. 1.2 MB

http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/01436597.2015.1112232

Since 2001 the World Health Organization (WHO) has been actively promoting its credentials for managing 'global health security'. However, the organisation's initial response to the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa has attracted significant criticism, even prompting calls for its dissolution and the creation of a new global health agency. Drawing on principal–agent theory and insights from previous disease outbreaks, this article examines what went wrong, the extent to which the organisation can be held to account, and what this means for the WHO's global health security mandate.

World Health Summit 2015 Yearbook

Editors Tobias Gerber, Detlev Ganten, Jörg Heldmann
World Health Summit (WHS) Foundation GmbH, November 2015
100 pp. 5.3 MB


The World Health Summit (WHS) is one of the world's most prominent forums for
Chile has often been a regional health system innovator. One of the first Latin American countries to adopt a Bismarckian social security system that provides white-collar workers with health insurance funded by a salary tax, Chile also created a state-run National Health System (NHS) in the 1950s, based on the British National Health Service model and funded by general tax revenue. Although the social security system provided insurance to salaried employees who contributed a portion of their salaries, Chile did not set up a separate social security delivery system, instead funding public services and later providing access to private clinics.
World Happiness Report 2015

The World Happiness Report is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness. Leading experts across fields – economics, psychology, survey analysis, national statistics, health, public policy and more – describe how measurements of well-being can be used effectively to assess the progress of nations. The reports review the state of happiness in the world today and show how the new science of happiness explains personal and national variations in happiness. They reflect a new worldwide demand for more attention to happiness as a criteria for government policy.

People and Corruption: Africa Survey 2015 - Global Corruption Barometer

The authors estimate that nearly 75 million people have paid a bribe in the past year – some of these to escape punishment by the police or courts, but many also forced to pay to get access to the basic services that they desperately need. A majority of Africans perceive corruption to be on the rise and think that their government is failing in its efforts to fight corruption; and many also feel disempowered as regards to taking action against corruption. In Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Liberia and Ghana citizens are the most negative about the scale of corruption in their country.

Progress in Medicine: Experts Take Stock

For the 2015 end-of-the-year editorial, PLOS Medicine asked 11 researchers and clinicians spanning a range of specialties to comment on the state of their field and what they expect or hope to see next year. From cardiovascular diseases and diabetes to cancer to infectious diseases, from new research and technologies to clinical practice, and from training to health policy and strategy, our contributors had plenty to say. Here’s to a healthy 2016!


Highlights from the January 2016 issue:

- Defining universal health coverage
- Mental health services more available to Syrians
- Interview: building research partnerships
- Does folic acid fortification help to reduce birth defects?
- Retaining doctors in Nepal’s remote hospitals
- China’s new national mortality surveillance system
- Economic impact of medical tourism in Thailand

**African Journal of Current Medical Research (AfriJCMR) launched**

A new electronic journal with the name “African Journal of Current Medical Research (AfriJCMR)” has been launched. This online peer-reviewed medical journal provides an enabling platform for the sharing of current medical knowledge with special focus on African issues. Submissions to the maiden edition will be free for authors. The editors are therefore soliciting for manuscripts for publication in their maiden edition.


**Zero-Rating: A Modest Proposal**

by Steve Song
25 November 2015
Read online at: [https://manypossibilities.net/2015/11/zero-rating-a-modest-proposal/](https://manypossibilities.net/2015/11/zero-rating-a-modest-proposal/)

Imagine a world where all phones were automatically connected to the Internet, at no charge. Is this an idle fantasy? The current worldwide debate about Zero-Rating and
Network Neutrality has brought the issue of affordable Internet access into sharp relief.

**CONFERENCES & TRAINING**

**8th International Women's Institute on Leadership & Disability (WILD)**

July 30 – August 21, 2016  
Deadline to apply: February 1st, 2016

Application available in English and Spanish online at:


Mobility International USA (MIUSA)'s Women's Institute on Leadership and Disability (WILD) will bring together approximately 20 women leaders with disabilities from approximately 20 different countries, to strengthen leadership capacity, create new visions and build international networks of support for inclusive international development programming. During the three-week program, participants will take part in workshops, seminars and discussions, conduct on-site visits, and participate in team-building activities, to explore challenges and exchange strategies for increasing leadership opportunities and participation of women and girls with disabilities in international development programs.

**CARTOON**

“The ringing in your ears—I think I can help.”

Source: Leo Cullum
**TIPS & TRICKS**

**Who has never forgotten where its car was parked? The App that finds your car anywhere**


Want a simple automated app to find where you parked your vehicle without wasting time? The simple Tuture iOS app lets users find their car without accessories or extra activity. Just install and live life knowing that you can confidentially have your vehicle's location anytime and anywhere worldwide. Users can view the vehicle location from the time they left it plus this app notes the entrance if parked underground. This reliable app utilizes the iPhone's GPS, compass, and data connection (and might use quite some power for that). The developers also include a handy tutorial.

**Image formats**

There are basically two ways of saving images, lossy or lossless. If an image is saved in a lossy image format, it means the format being used discards some of the "unimportant" image information. However, the resulting image file is smaller. Lossless retains ALL the image information.

**JPEG** - By far one of the most common image formats. It is primarily used for photographs. It is a lossy type of format, but most people can't really see the difference. You can adjust the amount of compression when saving a JPEG image, so you do have some control over the final output quality. JPEG's are extremely popular since they compress into a small file size and retain excellent image quality.

Keep in mind that the more you compress a JPEG, the more "pixely" it will tend to look. For the best results, save your JPEG's at the "medium" or "high" setting (your imaging software should bring up this option when you go to save as a JPEG). You really can't see any image degradation in most pictures saved at the medium setting.

**GIF** - Another popular format, especially on the web. It is a lossless format that is ideal for graphics. GIF's can be either static or animated. If you have ever seen a graphic on a web page that was animated, you have seen one of these animated GIF's. Most of the time GIF's are used for non-photographic type images (buttons, borders, stuff like that).

**BMP** - This is the standard Windows image format. It is lossless and works well for pictures or graphics. It is an uncompressed file format, so it takes up lots of disk space. It is also the standard format for Windows wallpaper.

**PNG** - (Portable Network Graphic) is a lossless image format, properly pronounced "ping". It was designed to replace the older and simpler GIF format. Like GIF you can make transparent images for buttons and icons, but it does not support animation. A PNG file can generally end up being twice the size of a JPG and three times larger than a GIF and some browsers, such as older versions of Internet Explorer and Netscape, incorrectly render them.
ART - If you are an AOL user this is the reason your web graphics look bad and only your AOL friends can open the pictures you send them. By default AOL compresses image files and sends them to you as .art files. They claim that this makes pages load faster, but really it is just a way to conserve bandwidth.

TIFF - It is a lossless format that can use file compression (called LZW compression). It won’t result in as small a file as a JPEG (which is why it is not used on the web), but you do retain all image quality. When compressed, the file is usually about half the size of the original file. If you save photos in this format you can then convert them to other formats for screen savers, wallpaper, or web images.
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Division Health; population policy

PROFILE – Programme to Foster Innovation, Learning and Evidence in HIV and Health Programmes of German Development Cooperation
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 36
53113 Bonn, Germany
Tel. +49 228 44 60 - 0
Fax +49 228 44 60 - 1766
profile@giz
www.giz.de / www.health.bmz.de

BMZ offices

BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn, Germany
T +49 (0) 228 99 535-0
F +49 (0) 228 99 535-3500

BMZ Berlin
Stresemannstraße 94
10963 Berlin, Germany
T +49 30 18 535-0
F +49 30 18 535-2501
poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de

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