EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

we have good news for you in this edition:

- The world’s fourth populous country, Indonesia, is on its way to providing universal health coverage to its whole population by 2019
- Tanzania’s hospitals have arrived in the digital age, and
- Global leaders have met once more to push health systems strengthening through the ‘Healthy Systems – Healthy Lives’ initiative

The most prominent public health topic of the past two weeks has been the Zika virus, and the international response to it is in full swing. In this issue, we give you an overview of concerns, resources and latest news in relation to this latest international public health emergency.

And there are many other pieces in this edition which you will find interesting: Dive in!

Your editorial team

Dieter Neuvians, Viktor Siebert, Anna von Roenne

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## ONLINE RESOURCES

**Healthy Developments – Germany’s commitment to health and social protection** .................................................. 4

  - Indonesia on the way to universal health coverage: a first year review ................................................................. 4
  - The roadmap to a healthy future – Bringing HSS into action ......................................................................................... 4
  - Computer technology is transforming Tanzania’s hospitals ...................................................................................... 4

**Reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health & Right to health** ........................................... 5

  - A voucher for health: Enabling young people in Uganda to access quality sexual and reproductive health services ........ 5
  - Universal Access to Reproductive Health: Progress and Challenges ........................................................................... 5
  - New Lancet Series: Breastfeeding ........................................................................................................................................................................... 6
  - Feasibility and acceptability of delivering adolescent health interventions alongside HPV vaccination in Tanzania ...... 7

**HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria** ........................................................................................................................................ 7

  - Global epidemiology of drug resistance after failure of WHO recommended first-line regimens for adult HIV-1 infection: a multicentre retrospective cohort study .................................................................................................................. 7
  - State variation in HIV/AIDS health outcomes: the effect of spending on social services and public health .................. 8
  - The “fair share” of shared responsibility ......................................................................................................................... 8
  - StepUp Human Rights Report .............................................................................................................................................. 8
  - Achieving universal testing for malaria .......................................................................................................................... 9
  - Malaria case detection using rapid diagnostic test at the community level in Ghana: consumer perception and practitioners’ experiences .......................................................................................................................... 9
  - Field evaluation of the 22 rapid diagnostic tests for community management of malaria with artemisinin combination therapy in Cameroon ............................................................................................................ 9

**Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness** ........................................ 10

  - Effect of pentavalent rotavirus vaccine introduction on hospital admissions for diarrhoea and rotavirus in children in Rwanda: a time-series analysis ........................................................................................................... 10
  - Interim Guidance: Clinical care for survivors of Ebola virus disease ........................................................................ 10
  - The Emerging Zika Pandemic: Enhancing Preparedness ............................................................................................... 11
  - Concern over Zika virus grips the world ............................................................................................................................ 11
  - Zika Virus Resource Center ..................................................................................................................................................... 11
  - Zika Virus - Medbox ............................................................................................................................................................... 12
  - Resources and latest news about Zika virus disease available from European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden ......................................................................................... 12
  - World Health Organization and emergency health: if not now, when? ........................................................................ 12

**Nutrition, Non-Communicable Diseases & Environmental Health (incl. WASH & Climate Change) ...** 13

  - Routine Amoxicillin for Uncomplicated Severe Acute Malnutrition in Children ........................................................... 13
  - Final report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity .................................................................................. 13
  - Tackling cancer: time for a global response ....................................................................................................................... 14
  - Wikipedia: WikiProject Sanitation ........................................................................................................................................ 14
  - The Impact of Drug Policy on the Environment ............................................................................................................. 14

**Health System Governance, Health Workforce and Health Information Systems** ........................................ 15

  - Explaining retention of healthcare workers in Tanzania: moving on, coming to ‘look, see and go’, or stay? ............... 15
  - Retention of health workers in rural Sierra Leone: findings from life histories ........................................................... 15

**Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies** .............................................................................. 15

  - Traditional medicine for modern times: Facts and figures ............................................................................................... 15

**Management and Quality of Health Services and Facilities** ........................................................................... 16

  - Universalism, Responsiveness, Sustainability - Regulating the French Health Care System ........................................ 16
  - Measuring health inequities in low and middle income countries for the development of observatories on inequities and social determinants of health ........................................................................................................... 16

hesp-news-briefing Issue 03/2016
Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection ........................................ 17
  African Health Monitor Issue 20: Universal Health Coverage .......................................................... 17
  Africa’s Demographic Transition: Dividend or Disaster? ................................................................. 17
Old Age, Unemployment and Occupational Injuries Protection ............................................................ 18
  World Report on Ageing and Health 2015 ......................................................................................... 18
Inclusion of People with Disabilities ....................................................................................................... 18
  Disability, non-communicable disease and health ............................................................................. 18
Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation ................ 18
  Final Report by the Federal Government on the G7 Presidency 2015 .............................................. 18
  10 global health issues to follow in 2016 .......................................................................................... 19
  Accelerating achievement of the sustainable development goals: A game changer in global health .... 19
  The Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Health Systems Strengthening: Workshop Summary ....... 20
  Health of People, Places and Planet .................................................................................................. 20
  Righting the wrong: Strengthening local humanitarian leadership to save lives and strengthen communities ........................................................................... 20
Miscellaneous ........................................................................................................................................ 21
  Corruption Perceptions Index 2015 .................................................................................................. 21
  Human Rights Watch World Report 2016: Events of 2015 ............................................................. 21
  No Safety for Refugee Women on the European Route: Report from the Balkans ......................... 22
  Making Integration Work: Refugees and others in need of protection .............................................. 22
  Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans Route: January – December 2016 .................................................................. 22
CARTOON .............................................................................................................................................. 24
TIPS & TRICKS ................................................................................................................................. 24
  WEEE? UNSSSS? New app unscrambles jumble of U.N. jargon .................................................... 24
  VirusTotal ....................................................................................................................................... 25
IMPRINT ............................................................................................................................................... 26
**ONLINE RESOURCES**

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

**Indonesia on the way to universal health coverage: a first year review**


Jaminan Kesehatan Nasional (JKN) is a national health insurance scheme launched by Indonesia in 2014. It covers 157 million people today and aims to provide universal health coverage to the whole population by 2019. What are the options to address JKN’s main challenges of financial sustainability and coverage effectiveness?

**The roadmap to a healthy future – Bringing HSS into action**


**Computer technology is transforming Tanzania’s hospitals**

http://health.bmz.de/events/In_focus/Catalysing_change_in_Tanzanias_hospitals/index.html?pk_campaign=03_2016

Tanzania’s ministry of health has recognized that ICT can boost the efficiency, transparency and quality of its health care system. With support of the Tanzanian-German Programme to Support Health hospitals in Tanga region have introduced a Computer Assisted Hospital Management System and, after three years, the results are impressive.
Reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health & Right to health

A voucher for health: Enabling young people in Uganda to access quality sexual and reproductive health services

by Diana Amanyire, Prossy Namugumya, Richard Tuyiragize et al.
International HIV/AIDS Alliance, 2016
12 pp. 1.4 MB

http://www.aidsalliance.org/assets/000/002/148/2015_Alliance_Case_Study_Link_Up_Uganda_Vouchers_Full_online_original.pdf?1453290568

Young people in Uganda have significant unmet sexual and reproductive health (SRH) needs. This is particularly the case for young people from key populations. The situation for young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people is also difficult. They face serious challenges in accessing SRHR services at a time in their lives when accessing these services is critical. One of the strategies Marie Stopes International Uganda (MSIU) used in Link Up to address these challenges was a voucher scheme for young people. This case study describes the organisation’s experiences in setting up and implementing the scheme, which ran between March 2014 and March 2015. It also documents initial lessons learnt and future recommendations.

Universal Access to Reproductive Health: Progress and Challenges

by Edilberto Loaiza, Mengjia Liang, Gretchen Luchsinger et al.
104 pp. 8.4 MB


Universal access to reproductive health affects and is affected by many aspects of life. It involves individuals’ most intimate relationships, including negotiation and decision-making within these relationships, and interactions with health providers regarding contraceptive methods and options. This report seeks to identify areas where reproductive health has advanced or not according to four main indicators: Adolescent birth rate, contraceptive prevalence rate, unmet need for family planning rate, proportion of demand for contraception satisfied.

Access all articles for free at:
http://www.rhm-elsevier.com/issue/S0968-8080%2815%29X0004-8

This issue of RHM focuses on sexuality, sexual rights and sexual politics, offering a wide range of analysis, perspectives and evidence that highlight the nexus between sexual health and human rights and deepen our knowledge about the challenges and opportunities for individuals of any sexual orientation or gender diversity to achieve the highest attainable level of sexual health.


by Jennifer Bryce, Agbessi Amouzou, Cesar G. Victora et al.
7 pp. 173 kB
http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/asset?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1001904.PDF

The authors synthesized findings from a seven-year project in Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, and Niger that tested methods for the real-time monitoring of under-five mortality (RMM), with particular attention to their implications for strengthening vital statistics systems. They tested three broad approaches, and found that none offers a surefire approach to obtaining accurate information on child deaths for recent periods of one year or less. This Collection underscores the importance of comprehensive reporting of results, including negative results. Full documentation and reporting of efforts to improve vital statistics systems are needed to inform future efforts.

New Lancet Series: Breastfeeding

The Lancet, Published: January 28, 2016
http://www.lancet.com/series/breastfeeding

“With a substantial development of research and findings for breastfeeding over the past three decades, we are now able to expand on the health benefits for both women and children across the globe. The two papers in this Series will describe past and current global trends of breastfeeding, its short and long-term health consequences for the mother and child, the impact of investment in breastfeeding, and the determinants of breastfeeding and the effectiveness of promotion interventions.”
Feasibility and acceptability of delivering adolescent health interventions alongside HPV vaccination in Tanzania

by Deborah Watson-Jones, Shelley Lees, Joseph Mwanga et al.

Health Policy Plan. (2016) - First published online: January 14, 2016
9 pp. 508 kB

http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2016/01/13/heapol.czv119.full.pdf+html

Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination offers an opportunity to strengthen provision of adolescent health interventions (AHI). The authors explored the feasibility of integrating other AHI with HPV vaccination in Tanzania. They conclude that, given programme constraints, limited experience with integrated delivery and concern about real or perceived side-effects being attributed to the vaccine, it will be very important to pilot-test integration of AHI/SHI with HPV vaccination. Selected interventions will need to be simple and quick to deliver since health workers are likely to face significant logistic and time constraints during vaccination visits.

HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria

Global epidemiology of drug resistance after failure of WHO recommended first-line regimens for adult HIV-1 infection: a multicentre retrospective cohort study

The TenoRes Study Group
The Lancet Infectious Diseases - Published Online: 28 January 2016
11 pp. 995 kB


Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is crucial for controlling HIV-1 infection through wide-scale treatment as prevention and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Potent tenofovir disoproxil fumarate-containing regimens are increasingly used to treat and prevent HIV, although few data exist for frequency and risk factors of acquired drug resistance in regions hardest hit by the HIV pandemic. The authors aimed to do a global assessment of drug resistance after virological failure with first-line tenofovir-containing ART. They recorded drug resistance in a high proportion of patients after virological failure on a tenofovir-containing first-line regimen across low-income and middle-income regions. Effective surveillance for transmission of drug resistance is crucial.
State variation in HIV/AIDS health outcomes: the effect of spending on social services and public health

by Kristina M. Talbert-Slagle, Maureen E. Canavan, Erika M. Rogan et al.
AIDS 2016, 30:657–663
7 pp. 643 kB

Despite considerable advances in the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, the burden of new infections of HIV and AIDS varies substantially across the USA. Previous studies have demonstrated associations between increased healthcare spending and better HIV/AIDS outcomes; however, less is known about the association between spending on social services and public health spending and HIV/AIDS outcomes. The authors sought to examine the association between state-level spending on social services and public health and HIV/AIDS case rates and AIDS deaths across the United States. The findings suggest that spending on social services and public health may provide a leverage point for state policymakers to reduce HIV/AIDS case rates and AIDS deaths in their state.

The “fair share” of shared responsibility

by Gemma Oberth for Aidspan, January 2016
39 pp. 1.0 MB

This is a report emanating from a case study analysis by Aidspan of how The Global Fund’s willingness-to-pay (WTP) policy leveraged additional government resources in the new funding model. The purpose of the study was to increase transparency around the Fund’s WTP policy, especially how it was operationalized at country level. The report provides quantitative and qualitative data on a small number of country case studies, detailing how much money countries committed as part of WTP, and what they committed to spend that money on. The study also describes how these commitments were obtained, including who participated in the process and any challenges which were encountered. Finally, the study describes how the WTP has contributed to spending on key populations, and how it impacted transition processes in upper-middle-income countries.

StepUp Human Rights Report

by Shaun Shelly
Advocacy & Psychosocial Coordinator (PWUD), 2016
16 pp. 2.5 MB
This report is compiled as part of the TB/HIV Care Association (THCA) StepUp Project. This project aims to demonstrate the feasibility and outcomes of providing a needle and syringe programme and other core HIV and other health and wellness services (i.e. HIV counselling and testing, referral to antiretroviral therapy and behaviour change interventions) to people who inject drugs (PWID) in South Africa, and will be formally evaluated at the end of the demonstration period in March 2016. This is the first project of its kind to be conducted in South Africa.

**Achieving universal testing for malaria**

*by* Eleanor Ochodo, Paul Garner, David Sinclair  
*BMJ* 2016; 352 - (Published 04 February 2016)  
6 pp. 959 kB  

http://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/352/bmj.i107.full.pdf

Rapid diagnostic tests have the potential to reduce the overtreatment of malaria by 95%, but time and extensive logistical, behavioural, and technical interventions may be required to achieve this.

**Malaria case detection using rapid diagnostic test at the community level in Ghana: consumer perception and practitioners’ experiences**

*by* Daniel A. Danquah, Kwame O. Buabeng, Kwaku P. Asante et al.  
*Malaria Journal* 201615:34 (22 January 2016)  
7 pp. 1.0 MB  


Ghana has scaled-up malaria control strategies over the past decade. Much as malaria morbidity and mortality seem to have declined with these efforts, there appears to be increased consumption of artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT). This study explored the perception and experiences of community members and medicines outlet practitioners on malaria case detection using rapid diagnostic test (RDTs) to guide malaria therapy. The authors conclude that though malaria RDT use in medicines outlets was largely uncommon, both community members and medicine outlet practitioners welcomed its use. Public education is however needed to improve malaria case detection using RDTs at the community level, to inform appropriate use of ACT.

**Field evaluation of the 22 rapid diagnostic tests for community management of malaria with artemisinin combination therapy in Cameroon**

*by* Innocent M. Ali, Jude D. Bigoga, Dorothy A. Forsah  

All suspected cases of malaria should receive a diagnostic test prior to treatment with artemisinin-based combinations based on the new WHO malaria treatment guidelines. This study compared the accuracy and some operational characteristics of 22 different immunochromatographic antigen capture point-of-­‐malaria tests (RDTs) in Cameroon to inform test procurement prior to deployment of artemisinin-based combinations for malaria treatment. Overall, 94.2% (21/22) of RDTs tested had accuracy within the range recommended by the WHO, while one performed poorly, below acceptable levels. Seven “Pf + PAN” and 3 “Pf Only” RDTs were selected for further assessment based on performance characteristics. Harmonizing RDT test presentation and procedures would prevent mistakes of test performance and interpretation.

**Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness**

**Effect of pentavalent rotavirus vaccine introduction on hospital admissions for diarrhoea and rotavirus in children in Rwanda: a time-series analysis**

by Fidele Ngabo, Jacqueline E Tate, Maurice Gatera et al.
8 pp. 610 kB

In May, 2012, Rwanda became the first low-income African country to introduce pentavalent rotavirus vaccine into its routine national immunisation programme. Although the potential health benefits of rotavirus vaccination are huge in low-income African countries that account for more than half the global deaths from rotavirus, concerns remain about the performance of oral rotavirus vaccines in these challenging settings. The number of admissions to hospital for diarrhoea and rotavirus in Rwanda fell substantially after rotavirus vaccine implementation, including among older children age-ineligible for vaccination, suggesting indirect protection through reduced transmission of rotavirus. These data highlight the benefits of routine vaccination against rotavirus in low-income settings.

**Interim Guidance: Clinical care for survivors of Ebola virus disease**

World Health Organization, 22 January 2016
31 pp. 737 kB
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/guidance-survivors.pdf

Ebola virus disease (EVD) survivors need comprehensive support for the medical and
psychosocial challenges they face and also to minimize the risk of continued Ebola virus transmission, especially from sexual transmission. This document provides guidance on providing the necessary care and services for clinical care and virus testing, and should be used to guide the planning and delivery of ongoing health services to people who have recovered from EVD.

The Emerging Zika Pandemic: Enhancing Preparedness


The Zika virus (ZIKV), a flavivirus related to yellow fever, dengue, West Nile, and Japanese encephalitis, originated in the Zika forest in Uganda and was discovered in a rhesus monkey in 1947. The disease now has “explosive” pandemic potential, with outbreaks in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas. Since Brazil reported Zika virus in May 2015, infections have occurred in at least 20 countries in the Americas. The Aedes species mosquito (an aggressive daytime biter) that transmits Zika virus (as well as dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever) occurs worldwide, posing a high risk for global transmission. Modelling anticipates significant international spread by travellers from Brazil to the rest of the Americas, Europe, and Asia. What steps are required now to shore up preparedness in the Americas and worldwide?

Concern over Zika virus grips the world


In the past week, the world has mobilised to tackle the latest threat to global health security — Zika virus, now spreading rapidly in the Americas. Worldwide concern over Zika virus and its temporal and geographical association with clusters of birth and neurological conditions escalated last week, with WHO declaring a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. No doubt not wanting to repeat mistakes made in the west African Ebola outbreak, WHO was quick to raise the alarm.
With global infection rates of the Zika virus increasing rapidly, physicians should be prepared to handle possible cases of the virus and answer patients’ questions. No locally transmitted Zika virus cases have been reported in the continental United States, but cases have been confirmed in returning travelers. The AMA intends to update this resource center regularly to provide information to the public, physicians and other health care workers as they seek to learn more.

Zika Virus - Medbox

Medical Mission Institute, Würzburg, Germany

Zika viral disease has been declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern by WHO. The MEDBOX team has uploaded all currently available documents on this newly emerging disease in the "Rapid Response Toolbox":

Resources and latest news about Zika virus disease available from European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), Stockholm, Sweden

by Eurosurveillance Editorial Team
Eurosurveillance, Vol. 21, Issue 5, 04 February 2016
http://www.eurosurveillance.org/ViewArticle.aspx?ArticleId=21369

The European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) has monitored the Zika outbreaks in the Pacific Region and Latin America since onset of the respective outbreaks, and provides updates and resources in various formats such as daily updated maps of the countries and territories with reported confirmed autochthonous cases of Zika virus infection, fact sheets for professionals, risk assessments and epidemiological updates reflecting changes in the evolution of the epidemic on its website. The weekly ECDC communicable disease threat report, summarises information gathered through epidemic intelligence by ECDC regarding communicable disease threats of concern to the European Union. It also includes updated information on the global situation and changes in the epidemiology of Zika virus.
Read more in the articles published on Zika virus infection in Eurosurveillance.

World Health Organization and emergency health: if not now, when?

by Francesco Checchi, Ronald J Waldman, Leslie F Roberts et al.
BMJ 2016;352:i469
8 pp. 577 kB
In light of the recent Ebola epidemic, the authors argue that the World Health Organization’s response to health emergencies is not fit for purpose and put forward six proposals to reform WHO’s crisis response.

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

**Routine Amoxicillin for Uncomplicated Severe Acute Malnutrition in Children**

by Sheila Isanaka, Céline Langendorf, Fatou Berthé et al.

10 pp. 511 kB


High-quality evidence supporting a community-based treatment protocol for children with severe acute malnutrition, including routine antibiotic use at admission to a nutritional treatment program, remains limited. The authors found no benefit of routine antibiotic use with respect to nutritional recovery from uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition in Niger. In regions with adequate infrastructure for surveillance and management of complications, health care facilities could consider eliminating the routine use of antibiotics in protocols for the treatment of uncomplicated severe acute malnutrition.

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**Final report of the Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity**

World Health Organization, The Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO), January 2016
68 pp. 1.6 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204176/1/9789241510066_eng.pdf?ua=1

According to the report, many children are growing up today in environments encouraging weight gain and obesity. Driven by globalization and urbanization, exposure to unhealthy (obesogenic) environments is increasing in high-, middle- and low-income countries and across all socioeconomic groups. The marketing of unhealthy foods and non-alcoholic beverages was identified as a major factor in the increase in numbers of children being overweight and obese, particularly in the developing world. The ECHO findings urge WHO to institutionalize, throughout the Organization, a cross-cutting and life-course approach to ending childhood obesity.
Tackling cancer: time for a global response

by Franco Cavalli
The Lancet - Published Online: 03 February 2016
2 pp. 285 kB

World Cancer Day on Feb 4, 2016, offers an opportunity to draw public attention to the plight of millions of people across the globe who are suffering and dying from this disease, and to raise awareness about how much could be achieved if the global community took decisive steps to improve access to cancer prevention, early detection, treatment, and care.

Wikipedia: WikiProject Sanitation


A WikiProject is a group of contributors who want to work together as a team to improve Wikipedia. These groups often focus on a specific topic area, a specific location or a specific kind of task (for example, checking newly created pages). The English Wikipedia currently has over 2,000 WikiProjects, each with varying levels of activity.

The WikiProject Sanitation began in December 2014 and seeks to benefit the world by giving the general public and professionals in all areas that touch on sanitation topics (such as public health, infrastructure, water, agriculture, gender, environment, poverty, etc.) information which they can all read, appreciate, and respect, free of charge.

The Impact of Drug Policy on the Environment

by Kendra McSweeney
Open Society Foundations, 2015
30 pp. 322 kB

Across the world, cultivators and traffickers of illicit drugs are wreaking ecological havoc - clearing fields from primary rainforest, piggy-backing drug smuggling with traffic in illegal hardwoods and endangered species, and laundering money in land deals that devastate protected forests. The international drug control system must share the blame for this devastation. Forty years of dogged adherence to drug crop eradication and drug interdiction policies have been instrumental in hounding drug farmers and traffickers into increasingly fragile landscapes. Although these policies have arguably done little to stem the cultivation and traffic of illicit drugs, it has done much to amplify the environmental devastation and degradation that accompanies them.
Explaining retention of healthcare workers in Tanzania: moving on, coming to ‘look, see and go’, or stay?

by Aloisia Shemdoe, Godfrey Mbaruku, Angel Dillip et al.
Human Resources for Health 2016, 14:2 (19 January 2016)
13 pp. 1.7 MB

The Human Resources for Health system in the United Republic of Tanzania appears to lack transparency. A centralised monitoring system could help to avoid early departures, misallocation of training, and other incentives. The system should match workers’ profiles to the most suitable post for them and track their progress and rewards; training managers and holding them accountable. In addition, priority should be given to workplace safety, late night staff transport, modernised and secure compound housing, and involving the community in reforming health services culture and practices.

Retention of health workers in rural Sierra Leone: findings from life histories

by Haja R. Wurie, Mohamed Samai and Sophie Witter
Human Resources for Health 2016, 14:3 (1 February 2016)
15 pp. 536 kB

Sierra Leone has faced a shortage and maldistribution of staff in its post-conflict period. This long-standing challenge is now exacerbated by the systemic shock and damage wrought by Ebola. This study aimed to investigate the importance of different motivation factors in rural areas in Sierra Leone and thus to contribute to better decisions on financial and non-financial incentive packages, here and in similar contexts.

Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies

Traditional medicine for modern times: Facts and figures

by Andrea Rinaldi and Priya Shetty
SciDevNet, 30 June 2015
Read online at:
Millions use traditional medicine and many drugs come from natural products. But traditional and modern medicine’s different approaches challenge integration. Mixing them needs better regulation, quality control and profit sharing.

Management and Quality of Health Services and Facilities

Universality, Responsiveness, Sustainability - Regulating the French Health Care System

by Monika Steffen
5 pp. 487 kB

France is known for the quality and generosity of its health care, which received top ranking from the World Health Organization in 2000. Public health insurance covers the entire population and all fees for serious or chronic illnesses; patients can choose their doctor and hospital; and doctors can choose the treatment best suited to their patients, including highly expensive treatments. Prevention campaigns account for only 2.3% of current health expenditures. Two sets of ethics govern the system: the French conception of public service, based on equal treatment for all, and the ethics of the medical profession, which support doctors’ independence from public authorities and exclusive devotion to their patients’ interests and needs. These values have resulted in extensive use of health care and therefore high expenditures.

Measuring health inequities in low and middle income countries for the development of observatories on inequities and social determinants of health

by German Guerra, Elis Borde and V. Nelly Salgado de Snyder
International Journal for Equity in Health, 201615:9 (19 January 2016)
10 pp. 667 kB

Almost seven years after the publication of the final report of the World Health Organization’s Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH), its third recommendation has not been attended to properly. Measuring health inequities (HI) within countries and globally, in order to develop and evaluate evidence-based policies and actions aimed at the social determinants of health (SDH), is still a pending task in most low and middle income countries (LMIC) in the Latin American region. In this paper the authors discuss methodological and conceptual issues to measure HI in LMIC and suggest a three-stage methodology for the creation of observatories on health inequities (OHI) and social determinants of health.
Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection

**African Health Monitor Issue 20: Universal Health Coverage**

World Health Organization, October 2015
76 pp. 5.2 MB


This special issue of the African Health Monitor has a dual objective: firstly, it offers an overview of research on the subject of UHC in Africa; and secondly, it provides wider dissemination of research results presented and discussed in African scientific meetings. All the articles of this special issue originated from presentations made during the African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA) 3rd biennial scientific conference held in Nairobi in March 2014. Eleven of the 188 presentations made at the conference were selected by a joint team of World Health Organization staff and AfHEA members and expanded into full papers for publication in the Monitor.

**Africa’s Demographic Transition: Dividend or Disaster?**

David Canning, Sangeeta Raja, and Abdo S. Yazbeck, Editors
A copublication of Agence Française de Développement and the World Bank, 2015
217 pp. 14.1 MB

http://www.jointlearningnetwork.org/resources/download/get_file/ZW50cnlfaWQ6MzU1OXsmaWVsZF9uYW1lOnJlc291cmNIX2ZpbGV8dHlwZTpmaWxl

The implementation of universal health coverage (UHC) is a priority for global health policymakers, however one element that has received less attention than it merits is the impact of the demographic transition on both resources and service delivery. The new report addresses that gap by taking a population-centric approach towards achieving UHC. Indeed the pursuit of UHC is a multi-sectoral challenge that encompasses education, labour markets, gender, economics and the epidemiological transition, to name just a few. Harnessing the demographic dividend means, first and foremost, empowering women and girls by improving their health, enhancing their human capital through increased investment in education and skills, and providing them with greater market, social, and decision-making power.
Old Age, Unemployment and Occupational Injuries Protection

World Report on Ageing and Health 2015

by John Beard, Alana Officer, Andrew Cassels et al.
World Health Organization, 2015
260 pp. 4.5 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/186463/1/9789240694811_eng.pdf?ua=1

The Report emphasises that while some older people will require care and support, older populations in general are very diverse and make multiple contributions to families, communities and society more broadly. It cites research that suggests these contributions far outweigh any investments that might be needed to provide the health services, long-term care and social security that older populations require. And it says policy needs to shift from an emphasis on controlling costs, to a greater focus on enabling older people to do the things that matter to them.

Inclusion of People with Disabilities

Disability, non-communicable disease and health

by Nicola C Richards, Hebe N Gouda, Jo Durham et al.
Bulletin of the World Health Organization; Article ID: BLT.15.156869
6 pp. 74 kB

http://www.who.int/bulletin/online_first/BLT.15.156869.pdf?ua=1

Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) are a major cause of preventable disability worldwide. While actions to monitor NCDs have gained significant momentum in the global health agenda, similar developments to monitor and manage the growing burden of NCD-related disability have been relatively slow. The global NCD action plan was developed to support country efforts in addressing the devastating social, economic and public health impacts of NCDs.

Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation

Final Report by the Federal Government on the G7 Presidency 2015

Think Ahead. Act Together.
Published by Press and Information Office of the Federal Government, Berlin, Germany, 22 January 2016
68 pp. 5.8 MB
At the Summit in Elmau in June 2015 the G7 agreed to take a number of concrete steps. According to Chancellor Merkel, implementation of the G7 agenda will continue at various levels and with firm resolve, “whether within governments and civil society, the G7 itself, in the G20, in the EU or the United Nations.” The Federal Government has published a Final Report on the Summit in Elmau to coincide with the end of the German G7 Presidency.

10 global health issues to follow in 2016

by Margarite Nathe
Humansphere, 26 January 2016
Read online at:

Some global health threats take us by surprise, sparking fires we never expected to fight. Take Ebola, for instance – the world couldn’t have foreseen the 2014 outbreak, particularly in West Africa, which had never before experienced it. Other fires, though, have been smoldering quietly for decades, and are now building strength and becoming difficult to contain.

Accelerating achievement of the sustainable development goals: A game changer in global health

by Ashish Jha, Ilona Kickbusch, Peter Taylor et al., on behalf of the SDGs working group
BMJ 2016; 352 (Published 29 January 2016)
2 pp. 506 kB
http://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/352/bmj.i409.full.pdf

In September 2015, nearly 200 nations adopted the 17 sustainable development goals (SDGs) as a transformative, universal framework to address three interwoven dimensions of our global existence - people, planet, and prosperity. By substantially expanding on the scope and targets of their predecessors (the millennium development goals), the SDGs have set a high bar. To achieve them, we will need collective action to create new knowledge, share and broker knowledge, and implement insights through working with many sectors and diverse global health policy stakeholders.
The Role of Public-Private Partnerships in Health Systems Strengthening: Workshop Summary

Rapporteurs: Rachel M. Taylor and Jennifer Christian
Forum on Public-Private Partnerships for Global Health and Safety; Board on Global Health; Institute of Medicine; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2016
120 pp. 2.4 MB
http://download.nap.edu/cart/download.cgi?&record_id=21861

Over the past several decades, the public and private sectors made significant investments in global health, leading to meaningful changes for many of the world’s poor. These investments and the resulting progress are often concentrated in vertical health programs, such as child and maternal health, malaria, and HIV, where donors may have a strategic interest. Frequently, partnerships between donors and other stakeholders can coalesce on a specific topical area of expertise and interest. However, to sustain these successes and continue progress, there is a growing recognition of the need to strengthen health systems more broadly and build functional administrative and technical infrastructure that can support health services for all, improve the health of populations, increase the purchasing and earning power of consumers and workers, and advance global security.

Health of People, Places and Planet

Reflections Based on Tony McMichael’s Four Decades of Contribution to Epidemiological Understanding
Edited by Colin Butler, Jane Dixon, Anthony Capon
Published by ANU Press, The Australian National University, 2015
690 pp. 23.2 MB(!)
http://www.oapen.org/download?type=document&docid=578872

This book has three main goals. The first is to celebrate the work of a great public health figure, the late A.J. (Tony) McMichael (1942–2014). The second is to position contemporary public health issues in an interdisciplinary context and in ways that highlight the interdependency between the environment, human institutions and behaviours; a broad approach championed by Tony. The third is to encourage emerging and future public health leaders to advocate for policies and cultural change to sustain and improve human health, from a foundation of objective scholarship.

Righting the wrong: Strengthening local humanitarian leadership to save lives and strengthen communities

by Marc J. Cohen, Kevin Ferguson, Tara R. Gingerich et al.
Oxfam America Inc., 2016
20 pp. 1.1 MB
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/righting_the_wrong__9197176.pdf
Good, but not good enough: Tens of millions of people receive vital humanitarian aid every year, but millions more suffer without adequate help and protection, and their number is relentlessly rising. Far too often their suffering is because their governments cannot, or intentionally will not, ensure their citizens’ access to aid and protection. How do we right this wrong? By shifting more power, resources, and responsibility from the international actors - UN agencies, wealthy donor countries, large INGOs, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement - to local actors, including Red Cross/Red Crescent local chapters, national governments, national NGOs, local NGOs, community-based groups, and other civil society organizations.

Miscellaneous

**Corruption Perceptions Index 2015**

Transparency International, January 2016
Download Report, Maps, Infographics (packed with pkzip – 32 MB(!):

http://files.transparency.org/content/download/1952/12820/file/2015_CPI_ReportInfographicsZIP.zip

2015 showed that people working together can succeed in the battle against corruption. Although corruption is still rife globally, more countries improved their scores in the 2015 edition of Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index than declined. Overall, two-thirds of the 168 countries on the 2015 index scored below 50, on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be very clean). Yet in places like Guatemala, Sri Lanka and Ghana, citizen activists in groups and on their own worked hard to drive out the corrupt, sending a strong message that should encourage others to take decisive action in 2016.

**Human Rights Watch World Report 2016: Events of 2015**

Terror Attacks, Refugee Crisis, and Broad Global Crackdown
Human Rights Watch, January 2016
659 pp. 8.0 MB

http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/wr2016_web.pdf

In its 26th edition, Human Rights Watch reviews human rights practices in more than 90 countries. In his introductory essay, Executive Director Kenneth Roth writes that the spread of terrorist attacks beyond the Middle East and the huge flows of refugees spawned by repression and conflict led many governments to curtail rights in misguided efforts to protect their security. At the same time, authoritarian governments throughout the world, fearful of peaceful dissent that is often magnified by social media, embarked on the most intense crackdown on independent groups in recent times.
No Safety for Refugee Women on the European Route: Report from the Balkans

by Marcy Hersh, Katharina Obser, Michelle Brané et al.
Women’s Refugee Commission, 26 January 2016
19 pp. 482 kB
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Refugee-Women-on-the-European-Route-Balkans.pdf

There is virtually no consideration of gender-based violence along the route to ensure safe environments, identify survivors and ensure that services are provided to them. Protection risks for women, girls and other vulnerable groups are present at every stage of the European refugee migration; and at every point where risk could be mitigated, the opportunity to do so is squandered. There is an urgent need for the Serbian and Slovenian governments, in collaboration and coordination with other countries, the European Union (EU) and the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), to take control of a hastily developed and chaotic humanitarian response and put in place the policies, programs, services and personnel that will protect women and girls from a myriad of risks from the moment they arrive and through the journey to a safe resettlement.

Making Integration Work: Refugees and others in need of protection

by Anne-Sophie Schmidt, Thomas Liebig, Jean-Christophe Dumont et al.
74 pp. 1.5 MB

The OECD series “Making Integration Work” draws on key lessons from the OECD’s work on integration, particularly the Jobs for Immigrants country reviews series. The objective is to summarise in a non-technical way the main challenges and good policy practices to support the lasting integration of immigrants and their children for selected key groups and domains of integration. Each volume presents ten lessons and examples of good practice, complemented by synthetic comparisons of the integration policy frameworks in OECD countries. This first volume deals with refugees and others in need of protection, referred to as humanitarian migrants.

Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe Eastern Mediterranean and Western Balkans Route: January - December 2016

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration, January 2016
110 pp. 4.3 MB

One million refugees and migrants have made the perilous journey across the Mediterranean into Europe in 2015. This movement constitutes one of the largest movements of displaced
people through European borders since World War Two. As the volume of refugee and migrant flows has reached unprecedented levels affecting the countries’ capacity to cope with it, the vulnerability of people on the move and their humanitarian and protection needs have increased significantly. The challenge in 2016 is to ensure a coordinated response that not only addresses the humanitarian and protection needs of the refugees and migrants but also encourages States to fulfil their international and European human rights and refugee law obligations.


by Abby Stoddard, Adele Harmer, Katherine Haver et al.
Written for ALNAP by Humanitarian Outcomes, 2015
138 pp. 8.2 MB

The humanitarian system’s performance is assessed within its core functions of responding to major sudden-onset emergencies and supporting populations in chronic crisis, as well as its less well defined roles of humanitarian advocacy and support for resilience. This assessment is made based on standard evaluative criteria for humanitarian action (sufficiency/coverage, relevance/appropriateness, effectiveness, connectedness, efficiency and coherence).


Highlights from the February 2016 issue:

- Smoking in public buildings in Turkey
- Counting maternal deaths in Ghana
- Sustaining research for neglected diseases
- Rating films to prevent smoking
- Interview: disability is not a side issue
- Improving kangaroo care for small babies
- Access to iodized salt in 11 countries
- Estimating deaths from tropical diseases in Brazil
Understanding the workings of the United Nations as SDGs are thrown around with RIMLGs can be challenging even for insiders. So Howard Hudson decided to step in - with a smartphone tool to decrypt U.N. jargon. Hudson, a communicators coordinator at the United Nations University (UNU), realized the acronyms adopted so widely by the 193 U.N. member states were a barrier to getting public support for its work and confusing even those in-the-know. When asked about the SDGs outside the U.N. headquarters in central Manhattan, members of the public were baffled. Hudson's brainchild, the "UNU Jargon Buster" glossary app for smartphones, with about 450 A-to-Z entries from AAR to WTO, aims to decipher the global organization's penchant for vernacular that some say muddies public debate. Download the UNU 'Jargon Buster' App - for Android & iOS at: http://www.merit.unu.edu/app/
VirusTotal

VirusTotal, a subsidiary of Google, is a free online service that analyzes files and URLs enabling the identification of viruses, worms, trojans and other kinds of malicious content detected by antivirus engines and website scanners. At the same time, it may be used as a means to detect false positives, i.e. innocuous resources detected as malicious by one or more scanners.