EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues,

Just in time for the upcoming International AIDS Conference in Durban, the German Health Practice Collection released a new case study on building a national Opioid Substitution Therapy programme in Nepal. In contrast to earlier GHPC publications, this case study focuses on implementation challenges and the key learnings Nepalese and German partners generated in dealing with them.

Our latest “In focus” article looks at the same topic from the perspective of the patients who describe how Opioid substitution therapy brings stability to the lives of people who inject drugs.

We have several interesting contributions in this issue that will interest persons with disabilities and those designing and providing services for them. David Werner, the author of the cult publication “Where there is no doctor” presents Nothing About Us Without Us: Developing Innovative Technologies For, By and With Disabled Persons. And a new policy brief from Indonesia proposes new ways of boosting the employability of persons with disability.

While most of us will have heard and read, and worried, quite a bit about Brexit, this piece about what it might mean for global health takes a particularly interesting perspective on the topic.

Enjoy the reading and share widely!

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

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

Boosting the employability of persons with disabilities

Indonesian-German Social Protection Programme (SPP), July 2016


Persons with disabilities face significant disadvantages when it comes to their education and employment. This new report discusses how in Indonesia social care units (panti sosial) aim to boost their employability by building relations with employers and adapting vocational training to private sector demands.

Opioid substitution therapy in Nepal: Learnings from building a national programme


This case study describes how a national opioid substitution therapy (OST) programme was established in Nepal and explores how an approach developed for an industrialised country such as Germany can effectively be applied in a low-income country like Nepal.

Opioid substitution therapy brings stability to the lives of people who inject drugs in Nepal


Despite increasing levels of injecting drug use, evidence-based drug treatment programmes have been slow to take root in Nepal. A national opioid substitution therapy programme supported by German Development Cooperation points the way forward to integrated care for people who inject drugs.
Reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health & Right to health

**Unmet Need for Contraception in Developing Countries: Examining Women's Reasons for Not Using a Method**

by Gilda Sedgh, Lori S. Ashford and Rubina Hussain
Guttmacher Institute, June 2016
93 pp. 2.4 MB


Sexually active women in developing countries who have an unmet need for contraception, meaning they wish to avoid pregnancy but are not using any contraceptive (traditional or modern), generally cite one of several key reasons for not using a method. Addressing their reasons for non-use should inform family planning programs' efforts to satisfy this need.

**Recent Experiences and Lessons Learned in Vasectomy Programming in Low-Resource Settings: A Document Review**

by Brian Perry, Catherine Packer, Dawn Chin Quee et al.
The Evidence Project, Population Council, March 2016
51 pp. 1.3 MB


Vasectomy has been an available contraceptive option for men in some countries, but its use in most countries is limited and while engaging men in Family Planning (FP) has long been an important goal, it has largely remained elusive. However, more recently, research and programs that engage men in FP and combat inequitable gender norms have increased in effectiveness and scope. By maximizing the confluence of existing infrastructure and more positive attitudes toward FP use, and by building upon the existing body of effective male involvement interventions, now is an opportune time to incorporate vasectomy into national FP strategies.

**Sex Workers at Risk: A research summary on human rights abuses against sex workers**

Amnesty International, 2016
25 pp. 316 kB

[https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/POL4040612016ENGLISH.PDF](https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/POL4040612016ENGLISH.PDF)

This summary report provides an overview of the key research findings, highlighting the range and extent of human rights abuses and violations suffered by sex workers.
It shows how sex workers face stigma and marginalization, physical and sexual violence, barriers to protection from violence and crime, extortion and coercive police measures, and obstacles to securing their rights to health and housing. The summary report also provides a brief outline of Amnesty International’s policy and identifies a range of government actions it believes are necessary to best address the barriers that sex workers routinely face in realizing their rights.

**Misconceptions and Mismanagement of Menstruation among Adolescents Girls who do not attend School in Pakistan**

by Naghma Rizvi and Tazeen Saeed Ali
18 pp. 427 kB
http://ecommons.aku.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1035&context=jam

Menstruation is perceived and interpreted differently under different social and cultural norms. There are a number of different practices, conceptions and misconceptions that have been reported in studies conducted in various countries. In Pakistan, there is a dearth of knowledge related to hygienic and unhygienic practices, discomforts, misconceptions related to nutrition, and restrictions imposed during menstruation. The themes that emerged were: lack of knowledge about menstrual physiology, misconceptions about normal menstrual blood flow; discomforts and mismanagement, unhygienic practices during menstruation, alteration in nutrition, bathing, and socialization in both the religious and social activities.

**Saving the World’s Women from Cervical Cancer**

by Vivien Tsu and José Jerónimo
3 pp. 365 kB

No woman should die of cervical cancer in this day and age, yet each year more than 260,000 women do, mostly in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The dramatic disparity in incidence rates between high- and low-income countries is due primarily to differential access to effective screening and pre-cancer, or preventive, treatment; similar disparities also exist within countries. International gaps will widen further if use of the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine continues to lag in LMICs. Thanks in part to herd immunity for people not yet reached by the vaccine, and new vaccines that include more HPV types, there is a good chance that, in the not-too-distant future, current and future generations of adolescent girls will be largely spared from cervical cancer.
The State of the World’s Children 2016: A fair chance for every child

by Kevin Watkins, Maria Quattri, Tara Dooley et al.
180 pp. 5.1 MB


The publication argues that progress for the most disadvantaged children is not only a moral, but also a strategic imperative. Stakeholders have a clear choice to make: invest in accelerated progress for the children being left behind, or face the consequences of a far more divided world by 2030. At the start of a new development agenda, the report concludes with a set of recommendations to help chart the course towards a more equitable world.

El Niño Eastern & Southern Africa Region Investment Case

UN Children’s Fund, 23 June 2016
8 pp. 539 kB


One of the strongest El Niño events ever recorded places the lives of 26.5 million children at risk of malnutrition, water shortages and disease in ten countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. Governments and partners have been responding since 2015, but the scale of the crisis has outstripped the coping capacities of communities and the resources of government, putting decades of development gains at risk.

The Pneumonia Newsletter, June 2016


International Vaccine Access Center (IVAC) of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health launched a new monthly newsletter focused on pneumonia, the leading infectious killer of children worldwide. It aims to connect advocates around the world, including updates on pneumonia innovation, country progress, advocacy and research.
The Every Breath Counts Pneumonia Training & Education Kits

The Diarrhea & Pneumonia Working Group of Life Saving Commodities

http://www.lifesavingcommodities.org/pneumonia

Pneumonia is the single largest infectious cause of death in children under five worldwide. But with early detection, prompt care-seeking, and correct diagnosis, it is treatable. And with education, it can even be preventable. To aid in earlier recognition and care seeking, the Diarrhea & Pneumonia Working Group has created the Every Breath Counts programme of educational kits for caregivers and multimedia training kits for frontline health workers. These kits are easy to use and understand, align to the WHO/UNICEF iCCM pneumonia guidelines, and are extensively researched.

HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria

The Lancet HIV prevention issue

The Lancet HIV, July 2016, Vol. 3, Nr. 7, e283-e332

http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanhiv/issue/current

The latest UNAIDS statistics on HIV show that in the past 12 months an extra 2 million people have accessed HIV treatment. Although the gains in treatment are most definitely to be applauded, prevention must not get left behind. The July issue of The Lancet HIV is dedicated to prevention in a series of papers initiated by researchers at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

HIV 2015/2016

23th edition
Edited by Christian Hoffmann and Juergen Rockstroh
Medizin Fokus Verlag, 2015
776 pp. 5.1 MB


The hivbook is a medical textbook that follows the concept of being independent, easy to read, and freely available on the Internet. The book has first been published in 1991 and has since been updated annually. HIV 2015/2016 is the 23rd edition. The concept of this book was developed by Bernd Sebastian Kamps: to provide readable and freely accessible medical information on HIV for use in daily practice of HIV treatment. Even after he retired in July 2008, we decided to continue – encouraged by the fact that this textbook has been downloaded and read by ten thousands of physicians worldwide every year.
‘AIDS 2016’ Primer: What You Need to Know Ahead of July’s International AIDS Conference

by John McMannis
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, July 5, 2016
Read online at:

In just two weeks, the International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2016) will take place in Durban, South Africa. Ahead of AIDS 2016, it is important to take a moment to reflect on important questions surrounding the conference as people from around the world come together to advance plans to end AIDS as a crisis. This year, AIDS 2016 will unite 18,000 people from 180 different countries. By bringing people together from around the world, AIDS 2016 will serve as a platform for discussions on recent successes, scientific advancements, and how the global community can continue to work in partnership to ensure that we end the AIDS epidemic once and for all!

Governments fund communities: Six country experiences of financing community responses through governmental mechanisms

UNAIDS, 24 June 2016
36 pp. 350 kB

Community-based service delivery and advocacy are essential for achieving the ambitious treatment, prevention and human rights targets set through the UN-AIDS Fast-Track approach. Each of the countries discussed in this report (Argentina, Brazil, India, Malawi, Malaysia, Republic of Moldova) has found ways to foster the community component in its HIV response. They have decentralized services, formed strong partnerships with community-based organizations and focused investments to reach people who are most vulnerable.

Burden of disease and risk factors for death among children treated for tuberculosis in Malawi

by R.J. Flick, M.H. Kim, K. Simon et al.
The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, Volume 20, Number 8, 1 August 2016
10 pp. 608 kB
Children represent a small proportion of diagnosed TB cases and experience poor outcomes. Higher odds of death among children already on ART raises concerns over the management of these children. Further discussion of and research into paediatric-specific strategies is required to improve case finding and outcomes.

**Featured collection: Housing and malaria**

**MALARIA JOURNAL**

Improving housing and the built environment is a promising strategy to supplement long-lasting insecticide-treated nets and indoor residual spraying for malaria control and elimination. An expanding body of evidence indicates that simple modifications that reduce house entry by malaria vectors, such as closing eaves and screening doors and windows, can help protect residents from malaria. However, numerous questions remain unanswered, from the basic science relating to the optimal design of house improvements through to their translation into operational use. This Malaria Journal thematic series on ‘housing and malaria’ collates articles that contribute to the evidence base on approaches for improving housing to reduce domestic malaria transmission.

**Seven-Year Efficacy of RTS,S/AS01 Malaria Vaccine among Young African Children**

by Ally Olotu, Gregory Fegan, Juliana Wambua et al.

11 pp. 393 kB

RTS,S/AS01 is a malaria vaccine candidate that has undergone phase 3 evaluation across several sites in Africa that have varying intensities of malaria transmission. The efficacy of vaccination with RTS,S/AS01 wanes over time. The potential for rebound in malaria cases (also referred to as “age shift”) as immunity wanes may lessen the public health usefulness of malaria vaccines. The authors present data from 7 years of follow-up to assess the possibility of a rebound.

**Making the case for seasonal malaria chemoprevention**

by Alex Hulme
Malaria Consortium Advocacy Brief, June 2016
6 pp. 220 kB
Seasonal malaria chemoprevention (SMC) is a highly effective method of malaria prevention, and represents one of the important interventions recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO) to reduce malaria-related morbidity and deaths. SMC involves the monthly administration of antimalarial treatment courses of Sulphadoxine-Pyremethamine (SP) and Amodiaquine (AQ) or SP+AQ, for up to four months to children under five years old (3-59 months) in areas with high seasonal transmission of malaria. SMC reflects the recent paradigm shift in malaria control and elimination towards implementing a more tailored and context-specific mix of interventions that best make use of available resources and have the greatest potential to reduce malaria burden.

The threat of antimalarial drug resistance

by Borimas Hanboonkunupakarn and Nicholas J. White
Tropical Diseases, Travel Medicine and Vaccines 2016 2:10 - Published: 7 July 2016
5 pp. 452 kB

The battle between man and malaria has continued for thousands of years. Antimalarial drugs are essential weapons to fight the disease, but their efficacy is threatened by drug resistance which continues to emerge creating a major obstacle to malaria control and jeopardizing renewed hopes for elimination. As 2016 is the first year under WHO Global Technical Strategy for Malaria 2016–2030, it is a good time to ponder the progress of both sides and plan for the future.

Controlling malaria in pregnancy: how far from the Abuja targets?

by Oyindamola B. Yusuf, Joshua O. Akinyemi, Adeniyi F. Fagbamigbe et al.
MalariaWorld Journal, June 1, 2016, Vol. 7, No. 7
8 pp. 712 kB

The Roll Back Malaria (RBM) initiative recommended that all pregnant women receive Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPTp) and that by 2010 at least 80% of people at risk of malaria (including pregnant women) use insecticide-treated bednets (ITN) in areas with stable transmission. The authors evaluated ITN/IPTp coverage, explored its associated factors, and estimated the number of pregnancies protected from malaria. They conclude that ITN coverage was higher than in previous estimates even though it is still below the RBM targets. However, IPTp coverage remained low in 2012 and was not likely to increase to match the 2015 target coverage of 100%.
Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness

Mapping the Risk and Distribution of Epidemics in the WHO African Region: a technical report

by Ibrahima-Socé Fall, Nestor Ndayimirije, Zabulon Yoti et al.
World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Africa - Published on 01 May 2016
66 pp. 8.3 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/206560/1/97892902330844.pdf?ua=1

Disease surveillance is a critical component in detecting and effectively responding to epidemics to minimize loss of life and their disruptive consequences. Carefully assembled surveillance data at the highest possible spatial resolutions also permit the understanding of the burden of epidemics, their co-occurrence and the key biological, ecological, economic, health system and governance determinants. It is for this purpose that the WHO-AFRO has commissioned this report. The overarching objective was to develop a comprehensive spatially defined database of outbreaks and epidemics and delineate the ecological zones of diseases that are classified as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC).

Zika Virus: Implications for Public Health

by Daniele Focosi, Fabrizio Maggi, and Mauro Pistello
7 pp. 402 kB

http://cid.oxfordjournals.org/content/63/2/227.full.pdf+html

The World Health Organization has declared the current Zika virus (ZIKV) epidemic a public health emergency of international concern. Lack of vaccines and reliable diagnostic tests, broad geographical distribution of mosquito species that can transmit the virus, and absence of population immunity in newly affected countries are causes for concern. Although most infected persons are asymptomatic, ZIKV has been associated with a rise in cases of neurological complications and fetal central nervous system malformations. This review summarizes the current understanding of ZIKV biology and epidemiology, as well as possible interventions to prevent contagion and transmission.

Southern Europe’s Coming Plagues: Vector-Borne Neglected Tropical Diseases

by Peter J. Hotez
6 pp. 256 kB
New social and environmental forces, including economic downturns, climate change, and human migrations from the Middle East and North Africa, are merging into a “perfect storm” to promote the widespread emergence of neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) in Southern Europe. The factors responsible for promoting the vector-borne NTDs in Southern Europe are under investigation, but there are some key lead possibilities to consider: poverty, mass human migrations, climate change. The needs for tackling Southern Europe’s emerging NTDs are pervasive and will need to include increased active surveillance activities, studies to elucidate the modes of indigenous transmission, and prevention measures.

The global burden of viral hepatitis from 1990 to 2013: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2013

by Jeffrey D Stanaway, Abraham D Flaxman, Mohsen Naghavi et al.
The Lancet - Published Online July 6, 2016
8 pp. 11.4 MB

With recent improvements in vaccines and treatments against viral hepatitis, an improved understanding of the burden of viral hepatitis is needed to inform global intervention strategies. The authors conclude that viral hepatitis is a leading cause of death and disability worldwide. Unlike most communicable diseases, the absolute burden and relative rank of viral hepatitis increased between 1990 and 2013. The enormous health loss attributable to viral hepatitis, and the availability of effective vaccines and treatments, suggests an important opportunity to improve public health.

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

The Cost of Hunger in Africa: Social and Economic Impact of Child Undernutrition in Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland and Uganda

by Francisco Espejo, Carlos Acosta Bermudez, Rachel Quint et al.
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), 2014
250 pp. 11.5 MB

The Cost of Hunger in Africa Study quantifies the social and economic impact of undernutrition. The results provide an important advocacy tool towards creating policies and encouraging investments in Africa that help prevent losses of human and economic potential due to undernutrition. With Africa’s present economic advancement, now is the time for governments to seize the window of opportunity to ensure a generation free from stunting in the fore-
seeable future. Then, and only then, can the continent achieve the inclusive economic development desired.

**It’s Not Over: El Niño’s Impact on Children**

by Patrick Moser  
UN Children’s Fund - Published on 08 July 2016  
12 pp. 3.4 MB  
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/BRIEFING_NOTE_El_Nino_EN.PDF

The 2015-2016 El Niño has ended but its devastating impact on children is worsening, as hunger, malnutrition and disease continue to increase following the severe droughts and floods spawned by the event, one of the strongest on record. And there is a strong chance La Niña – El Niño’s flip side – could strike at some stage this year, further exacerbating a severe humanitarian crisis that is affecting millions of children in some of the most vulnerable communities. Unless more aid is forthcoming, including urgent nutritional support for young children, decades of development progress could be eroded.

**Behavior-Centered Approaches to Improve Health Outcomes**

Behavior-Centered Brief, FHI 360, April 2016  
12 pp. 4.5 MB  
http://www.washplus.org/sites/default/files/BC%20brief%20final%20508.pdf

Decades of interventions focusing on increasing access to water supply, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities and services without effectively attending to the related practices explain the failure to see desired health and social benefits. These benefits can only be realized when households and communities consistently and correctly practice improved behaviours. Hardware alone is insufficient to change behaviour. Likewise, promoting improved behaviours without addressing shortcomings in the products and services required to practice the behaviours makes change difficult, if not impossible. Hygiene promotion in schools that have schoolchildren sing a happy hygiene song but resort to defecating in the bushes due to a lack of child-friendly latrines does not lead to desired outcomes.

**From Toilets to Rivers: Experiences, New Opportunities, and Innovative Solutions**

by Robert Domingo, Maria Corazon Ebarvia, Anna Lissa Capili et al.  
Asian Development Bank, July 2016  
139 pp. 2.1 MB  
The project briefs are culled from case studies of good practices, new approaches, and working models on sanitation and wastewater management from different countries, and demonstrate solution options from which useful lessons can be derived. Given the more complex water resource and health challenges in many parts of the world, it is time to engage in a rational analysis of all possible management strategies, learn from others’ experiences, apply innovative approaches, and tap potential market.

**Using Graywater and Stormwater to Enhance Local Water Supplies: An Assessment of Risks, Costs, and Benefits**

Water Science and Technology Board; Division on Earth and Life Studies; National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, 2016

224 pp. 9.7 MB

http://download.nap.edu/cart/download.cgi?record_id=21866

Chronic and episodic water shortages are becoming common in many regions of the United States, and population growth in water-scarce regions further compounds the challenges. Increasingly, alternative water sources such as greywater - untreated wastewater that does not include water from the toilet but generally includes water from bathroom sinks, showers, bathtubs, clothes washers, and laundry sinks - and stormwater - water from rainfall or snow that can be measured downstream in a pipe, culvert, or stream shortly after the precipitation event - are being viewed as resources to supplement scarce water supplies rather than as waste to be discharged as rapidly as possible.

**Learning to Tackle Climate Change**

by Tanner, T.; Lockwood, M. and Seballos, F.

The Learning Hub, UKAid from the Department for International Development (DFID), 2012

33 pp. 26.3 MB

http://opendocs.ids.ac.uk/opendocs/bitstream/handle/123456789/2294/HUB_LearningToTackle+CC.pdf;jsessionid=931865C2764246EE2587BD7FB875B07?sequence=1

How can continuous learning and reflection help tackle climate change in the context of wider development challenges? This interactive PDF aims to support ongoing learning by those inside and outside DFID to develop their own learning journey - no matter what their country, context or level of personal expertise. It reflects the combined knowledge of DFID staff and external experts generated over two years on a shared learning journey through the Learning Hub.
Public spending on climate change in Africa

Experiences from Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda
by Neil Bird, Felix Asante, Simon Bawakyillenuo et al.
147 pp. 1.9 MB

Public spending on climate change in Africa describes the extent to which public expenditure responds to national climate change policy and the institutional demands required to implement such policy. The four countries of the study – Ethiopia, Ghana, Tanzania and Uganda – provide insights into the early mobilisation of climate change finance, as each country attempts to address the new challenges that climate change is bringing about.

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

The Demographic Profile of African Countries
by William Muhwawa, Gideon Rutarenwa, Amal Elbeshbishi et al.
Economic Commission for Africa, March 2016
77 pp. 4.8 MB

Africa’s demographic dynamics are shaping its present and future development agenda. Perhaps the greatest and most fundamental challenge is to address the economic and social development issues of a continent that will be home to 1.5 billion people in the next 10 years. The report highlights the current demographic scenario on the continent and goes on to suggest broader social and development policy implications.

Health System Governance, Health Workforce and Health Information Systems

Medical intelligence, security and global health: the foundations of a new health agenda
by G Bowsher, C Milner and R Sullivan
5 pp. 508 kB
http://jrs.sagepub.com/content/109/7/269.full.pdf+html

Medical intelligence, security and global health are distinct fields that often overlap, especially as the drive towards a global health security agenda gathers pace. Here, the authors outline some of the ways in which this has happened in the recent past during the recent Ebola epidemic in West Africa and in the killing of Osama Bin laden by US intelligence services. They
evaluate medical intelligence and the role it can play in global health security; they also attempt to define a framework that illustrates how medical intelligence can be incorporated into foreign policy action in order delineate the boundaries and scope of this growing field.

The academic, economic and societal impacts of Open Access: an evidence-based review

by Jonathan P. Tennant, François Waldner, Damien C. Jacques et al.
49 pp. 2.4 MB


Ongoing debates surrounding Open Access to the scholarly literature are multifaceted and complicated by disparate and often polarised viewpoints from engaged stakeholders. At the current stage, Open Access has become such a global issue that it is critical for all involved in scholarly publishing, including policymakers, publishers, research funders, governments, learned societies, librarians, and academic communities, to be well-informed on the history, benefits, and pitfalls of Open Access. In spite of this, there is a general lack of consensus regarding the potential pros and cons of Open Access at multiple levels. This review aims to be a resource for current knowledge on the impacts of Open Access by synthesizing important research in three major areas: academic, economic and societal.

Atlas of eHealth country profiles: The use of eHealth in support of universal health coverage

by Misha Kay
Global Observatory for eHealth, World Health Organization, 2016
392 pp. 3.2 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/204523/1/9789241565219_eng.pdf

The third global survey on eHealth conducted by the WHO Global Observatory for eHealth (GOe) has a special focus - the use of eHealth in support of universal health coverage. eHealth plays a vital role in promoting universal health coverage in a variety of ways. For instance, it helps provide services to remote populations and underserved communities through telehealth or mHealth. It facilitates the training of the health workforce through the use of eLearning, and makes education more widely accessible especially for those who are isolated. It enhances diagnosis and treatment by providing accurate and timely patient information through electronic health records. And through the strategic use of ICT, it improves the operations and financial efficiency of health care systems.
Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies

Time for a Model List of Essential Diagnostics

by Lee F. Schroeder, Jeannette Guarner, Ali Elbireer et al.  
4 pp. 120 kB  

The Model List of Essential Medicines (EML) maintained by the World Health Organization (WHO) plays a central role in global health policy. The authors believe that it is time to establish a similarly influential Model List of Essential Diagnostics (EDL). Diagnostic tests are critical to the management of communicable and non-communicable diseases, surveillance of emerging infectious threats such as the Ebola and Zika viruses, and the safe and rational use of EML medicines, including stewardship of antiinfective agents to reduce the likelihood of the development of microbial resistance. Wherever the list is housed, its existence would facilitate group purchasing to reduce costs and inspire development of logistical solutions for laboratory testing in resource-poor settings.

Disrupting malaria: How Fyodor Biotechnologies is changing the game

by Efosa Ojomo  
The World Bank Blog, Wednesday, 15 June 2016  
Read online at:  

Considering the scale of malaria’s impact on Africa, there have been many innovations that have helped curb the spread of the disease, but perhaps one of the most significant is Fyodor Biotechnology’s disruptive Urine Malaria Test (UMT). Fyodor’s UMT is a simple urine test where patients simply urinate on a stick to find out if they have malaria. UMT is an inexpensive (introductory price: US$ 2 per test to end user) malaria diagnostic test that does not require the expertise of a trained professional. The UMT kit also does not require a lab or special disposal due to its simplicity. It is a three-step process that lets patients know, in 20 minutes, if they have malaria. It is solutions like these that African investors and policy makers need to support to get Africa on a path to sustainable economic development.

WHO Drug Information Vol. 30, N° 2, 2016

70 pp. 657 kB  
http://www.who.int/entity/medicines/publications/druginformation/WHO_DI_30-2.pdf?ua=1
WHO Drug Information provides an overview of topics of current relevance relating to drug development and regulation. The second issue for 2016 includes featured articles on the following topics:

- ICDRA: This article looks at the past and present achievements of the biennial International Conference of Drug Regulatory Authorities (ICDRA) in the lead-up to the 17th ICDRA in November 2016, which will be the first ICDRA to take place in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Quality testing of vaccines
- Medicines shortages: This article presents a summary and outcomes of a WHO-convened technical consultation on shortages of essential medicines.
- The Safety news section highlights information on adverse drug reactions and recommendations including labelling changes, as well as findings of non-compliance with good practices and falsified product alerts.

Management and Quality of Health Services and Facilities

Integrated community case management and community-based health planning and services: a cross sectional study on the effectiveness of the national implementation for the treatment of malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia

by Blanca Escribano Ferrer, Jayne Webster, Jane Bruce et al.
Malaria Journal 2016 15:340 - Published: 2 July 2016
15 pp. 1.0 MB

Ghana has developed two main community-based strategies that aim to increase access to quality treatment for malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia: the Home-based Care (HBC) and the Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS). The objective was to assess the effectiveness of HBC and CHPS on utilization, appropriate treatment given and users’ satisfaction for the treatment of malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia.

Guidelines for Accurate and Transparent Health Estimates Reporting: the GATHER statement

by Gretchen A. Stevens, Leontine Alkema, Robert E. Black et al.
8 pp. 171 kB
http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/asset?id=10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1002056.PDF

The Guidelines for Accurate and Transparent Health Estimates Reporting, or GATHER, is a checklist of 18 best practices that sets the standard for disclosing how health estimates are developed. The GATHER checklist was developed by WHO and researchers from around the world including the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington in Seattle, and was published in the Lancet and PLOS Medicine. “When the health and well-being of millions of
people is at stake you need to be sure you have the best possible information to make the best possible decisions,” said Dr Ties Boerma, Director of WHO’s Department of Information, Evidence and Research. “GATHER is a crucial step towards making sure health estimates can stand up to scrutiny.”

Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection

What is the private sector? Understanding private provision in the health systems of low-income and middle-income countries

by Maureen Mackintosh, Amos Channon, Anup Karan et al.
The Lancet - Published Online: 26 June 2016
10 pp. 496 kB

Private health care in low-income and middle-income countries is very extensive and very heterogeneous, ranging from itinerant medicine sellers, through millions of independent practitioners - both unlicensed and licensed - to corporate hospital chains and large private insurers. Policies for universal health coverage (UHC) must address this complex private sector. However, no agreed measures exist to assess the scale and scope of the private health sector in these countries, and policy makers tasked with managing and regulating mixed health systems struggle to identify the key features of their private sectors.

Performance of private sector health care: implications for universal health coverage

by Rosemary Morgan, Tim Ensor, Hugh Waters
The Lancet - Published Online: 26 June 2016
7 pp. 290 kB

Although the private sector is an important health-care provider in many low-income and middle-income countries, its role in progress towards universal health coverage varies. Studies of the performance of the private sector have focused on three main dimensions: quality, equity of access, and efficiency. The characteristics of patients, the structures of both the public and private sectors, and the regulation of the sector influence the types of health services delivered, and outcomes. Combined with characteristics of private providers - including their size, objectives, and technical competence - the interaction of these factors affects how the sector performs in different contexts.

Managing the public-private mix to achieve universal health coverage

by Barbara McPake and Kara Hanson
The Lancet, Published Online: 26 June 2016
The private sector has a large and growing role in health systems in low-income and middle-income countries. The goal of universal health coverage provides a renewed focus on taking a system perspective in designing policies to manage the private sector. This perspective requires choosing policies that will contribute to the performance of the system as a whole, rather than of any sector individually. Here the authors draw and extrapolate main messages from the papers in this Series and additional sources to inform policy and research agendas in the context of global and country level efforts to secure universal health coverage in low-income and middle-income countries.

Social protection for sustainable development: dialogues between Africa and Brazil

Editor: Karen Lang
UNDP World Centre for Sustainable Development (Rio+Centre), 2016
226 pp. 5.7 MB

Social protection programmes are among the most successful development experiences the world has seen in recent years. They have proven to be key in developing countries’ efforts to fight poverty and hunger, as demonstrated by the substantial progress countries such as Brazil, Ethiopia and Senegal have made in poverty reduction through the adoption and expansion of social protection schemes. These and other examples clearly show that social protection has the potential to contribute significantly to long-term sustainable development, especially when built under a broader, more integrated framework.

Medical savings accounts: assessing their impact on efficiency, equity and financial protection in health care

by Olivier J. Wouters, Jonathan Cylus, Wei Yang et al.
16 pp. 651 kB

Medical savings accounts (MSAs) allow enrollees to withdraw money from earmarked funds to pay for health care. The accounts are usually accompanied by out-of-pocket payments and a high-deductible insurance plan. This article reviews the association of MSAs with efficiency, equity, and financial protection. The authors draw on evidence from four countries where MSAs play a significant role in the financing of health care: China, Singapore, South Africa, and the United States of America. The available evidence suggests that MSA schemes have generally been inefficient and inequitable and have not provided adequate financial protection. The impact of these schemes on long-term health-care costs is unclear. Policymakers and others proposing the
expansion of MSAs should make explicit what they seek to achieve given the shortcomings of the accounts.

Social Transfers

The Case for Cash in Humanitarian Emergencies

by Phillip Kaeding
Inter Press Service (IPS), June 2016
Read online at:
http://www.ipsnews.net/2016/06/the-case-for-cash-in-humanitarian-emergencies/

Currently only six percent of humanitarian aid worldwide comes in the form of cash handouts, yet many aid organisations believe that cash transfers should be seen as the rule, not the exception. Digital humanitarian cash transfers are one of the most significant and most exciting innovations of today. They offer a greater dignity, choice and flexibility for crisis-affected people. Due to increasingly widespread mobile phone ownership, cash transfers are now often made digitally. In some circumstances, including refugee camps, aid organisations may hand out cash directly. The transfers are usually given unconditionally, since this is considered an effective way to provide assistance to a person in need. Whereas in-kind assistance such as food or materials, may not suit the specific needs of the recipient, cash transfers allow recipients to spend money on their most urgent needs, while also supporting local markets.

Inclusion of People with Disabilities

Future ACP - EU relations: promoting the rights of persons with disabilities

International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), 2016
4 pp. 108 kB
http://iddcconsortium.net/sites/default/files/resources-tools/files/iddc_position_-_promoting_the_rights_of_persons_with_disabilities_in_future_acp_-_eu_relations.pdf

The Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA), defining the relations between the ACP countries and the EU, is expiring in 2020 and both EU and ACP are defining their position for the upcoming negotiations. With this position, the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC) wants to offer a number of concrete recommendations to ensure that in all future ACP - EU relations, whatever form they will take, the rights of persons with disabilities are promoted and protected.
Producing accessible health information for people with learning disabilities: a snapshot view

by Claire Murray
Patient Information Forum (PIF), 30 June 2016
Read online at:

Over the last month Patient Information Forum (PIF) has gathered the views and experiences of 35 people working in health information, about creating accessible health information for people with learning disabilities. They have asked them how they produce accessible information for people with learning disabilities, about the sorts of resources they produce, and how they involve people with learning disabilities in their work. They also explored what barriers exist for information producers when seeking to develop more accessible information resources.

Nothing About Us Without Us: Developing Innovative Technologies For, By and With Disabled Persons

by David Werner
The Program of Rehabilitation Organised by Disabled Youth of Western Mexico (PROJIMO)
360 pp. access online at:

Written by the author of “Disabled Village Children” and “Where There Is No Doctor”, this book is a clear development of his previous work. The focus of this book is on developing appropriate and innovative technologies in developing countries. This innovative book is meant to be an “ideas book” about problem solving rather than a “cook book” with precise instructions and measurements. It is about thinking problems through and finding appropriate solutions for people with a variety of disabilities.

Boosting the employability of persons with disabilities

Indonesian-German Social Protection Programme (SPP), July 2016
8 pp. 2.9 MB


Persons with disabilities face significant disadvantages when it comes to their education and employment. This new report discusses how in Indonesia social care units (panti sosial) aim to boost their employability by building relations with employers and adapting vocational training to private sector demands.
Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation

Brexit: what might it mean for global health?

by Rhea Saksena
Read online at:

Last week, the United Kingdom (UK) has made the unprecedented move of leaving the European Union (EU), an economic and political union of 28 member countries. After a close result, the Leave campaign won the referendum with 52% of the votes compared to 48% for the Remain campaign, with a 72.2% voter turnout. As the country now grapples to come to terms with the consequences of this election, this rejection of EU membership threatens to have a great impact on the health of people both within the UK as well as internationally.

Brexit and development: how will developing countries be affected?

by Dirk Willem te Velde, Phyllis Papadavid, Maximiliano Mendez-Parra
Overseas Development Institute Briefing Papers, July 2016
12 pp. 174 kB

This briefing discusses the actual and potential economic impact of Brexit on developing countries. Brexit will have major implications for developing countries, whether or not the UK actually leaves the EU. Different countries will be affected in different ways, depending on how the UK exits. There are mostly negative effects for developing countries, but some positive ones too. Policies at various levels can help to mitigate the shock or mitigate the impact of the shock.

A Global Charter for the Public’s Health - the public health system: role, functions, competencies and education requirements

by Borisch B., Jenkins C., Hernandez I. et al.
Published by Oxford University Press on behalf of the European Public Health Association
3 pp. 148 kB
The Global Charter for the Public’s Health (GCPH) is the main output of World Federation of Public Health Associations’ (WFPHA) collaboration plan with the World Health Organization (WHO) to adapt today’s public health to its global context in the light of and in conjunction with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Charter aims to bring together the best of all the existing models and provide a comprehensive, clear and flexible framework that can be applied globally and within individual countries, whether low, middle or high-income.

**Nature Policy: Map the interactions between Sustainable Development Goals**

by Måns Nilsson, Dave Griggs & Martin Visbeck
Nature 534, 320–322 (16 June 2016)
3 pp. 924 kB

http://www.nature.com/polopoly_fs/1.20075!/menu/main/topColumns/topLeftColumn/pdf/534320a.pdf

Next month in New York, the United Nations' 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development will have its first global progress review. Adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the agenda represents a new coherent way of thinking about how issues as diverse as poverty, education and climate change fit together; it entwines economic, social and environmental targets in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as an 'indivisible whole'. The authors present a simple way of rating relationships between the targets to highlight priorities for integrated policy.

**Getting Started with the Sustainable Development Goals: A Guide for Stakeholders**

by Sophie Matte, Liz Moyer, Chaitanya Kanuri et al.
Sustainable Development Solutions Network, December 2015
38 pp. 1.3 MB


This guide is a first and preliminary guide on how to “get started” with implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It aims to help stakeholders, including governments at all levels (national, regional, and local), to understand the SDG Agenda, to start an inclusive dialogue on SDG implementation, and to prepare SDG-based national development strategies. It draws upon lessons learned from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and proposes guiding principles to help countries navigate the SDG Agenda. The guide reflects the universality of the SDG Agenda by recognizing countries’ different starting points.
ICT & SDGs: How Information and Communications Technology can Accelerate Action on the Sustainable Development Goals

by Jeffrey D. Sachs, Vijay Modi, Heman Figueroa et al.
Ericsson and the Earth Institute at Columbia University, 2016
108 pp. 1.9 MB

The SDGs call for several breakthroughs by 2030, including an end to extreme poverty and hunger, while improving access to health care and education, protecting the environment, and building peaceful, inclusive societies. However, business-as-usual will not be sufficient to achieve many of the SDGs. Transformative solutions are urgently needed, along with new partnerships between governments, the private sector, international organizations, civil society and academia. Each SDG is positively impacted by Information and Communications Technology (ICT). By embracing broadband as critical infrastructure for the 21st century, we can create the foundations for unprecedented global social and economic progress.

Aid Transparency Index 2016

Publish What You Fund, 2016
20 pp. 583 kB
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/ATI-2016_Report_Proof_DIGITAL_0.pdf

2015 was an important year for international development, with governments agreeing to the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the next fifteen years. It was also a critical year for aid transparency. Back in 2011, leading donors committed in Busan to make their aid transparent by the end of 2015. The 2016 Aid Transparency Index demonstrates whether that commitment has been met. Five years after the first Aid Transparency Index, and five years after the Busan commitment, it shows us how transparent major donors are as we begin the first year of the implementation of the SDGs.

Miscellaneous

OECD Health Statistics 2016


For Definitions, Sources and Methods see:
The OECD Health Database offers the most comprehensive source of comparable statistics on health and health systems across OECD countries. It is an essential tool to carry out comparative analyses and draw lessons from international comparisons of diverse health systems.

**New Issue of Global Health: Science and Practice (June 2016)**

The editors of the “Global Health: Science and Practice” (GHSP) Journal welcome you to their no-fee, open-access, peer-reviewed, online journal. GHSP aims to improve health practice, especially in low- and middle-income countries, by publishing current research and program experiences. GHSP is a unique journal because it focuses on the lessons learned and the “how” of global health programs; lessons and detail that are often buried in grey literature.

Some highlights:
- A Convenient Truth: Cost of Medications Need Not Be a Barrier to Hepatitis B Treatment
- Investing in Family Planning: Key to Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals
- School Distribution as Keep-Up Strategy to Maintain Universal Coverage of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets: Implementation and Results of a Program in Southern Tanzania
- Family Planning Counseling in Your Pocket: A Mobile Job Aid for Community Health Workers in Tanzania

**Bulletin of the World Health Organization – Vol. 94, Nr. 7, July 2016**

In this issue:
- Laws need reviewing for universal health coverage
- Improving the reporting of health estimates
- India grapples with air pollution problem
- Jeffrey D Sachs speaks about health and climate change
- Health policy research lacking in many countries
- Marketing of unhealthy food and drinks to children
- The burden of traffic crashes in 15 countries

**The CIVICUS State of Civil Society Report 2016: Thematic Overview Exclusion**

by CIVICUS, 2016
54 pp. 1.1 MB
CIVICUS, an international alliance focusing on strengthening citizen action and civil society globally launched its ‘State of Civil Society Report 2016’. This thematic overview draws primarily from 33 guest contributions commissioned by CIVICUS on the theme of civil society and exclusion. Contributions come from civil society leaders, activists and experts, and examine different facets of how civil society works to address a diverse range of forms of exclusion, and how exclusion impacts on civil society. This overview also draws from other inputs of members of the CIVICUS alliance, notably responses from 27 national and regional civil society organisation (CSO) networks. This overview is therefore inspired by a wide range of civil society voices, in every global region.

CONFERENCES & TRAINING

International Symposium: Social Protection Systems - Tying the Knots

September 5-6, 2016, Bonn, Germany
Convened by the department of Social Security Studies from the Bonn-Rhein-Sieg University of Applied Sciences together with the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, GIZ, the German Development Institute, and the Maastricht Graduate School of Governance.

This symposium is supposed to provide the floor for academics, practitioners and politicians to exchange and discuss advances and challenges when it comes to social protection system building. While the first day of the symposium starts off with keynote speeches and a panel discussion, the second day gives room to practitioners and academics to present their findings and ideas.

For more information see:
TIPS & TRICKS

Google Scholar

https://scholar.google.de/

Google Scholar is a search engine for scholarly articles that is incredibly extensive. Not only can you access famous scientific papers, theses, and books, you can also dive into court opinions, topics from academic publishers and professional societies. It is a great tool for those in the academic world.

Another Google Gem

Need a quick definition of a word? Just open Google: http://www.google.com
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For example, if you want to define the word Ambidextrous, you'd put in:
define: Ambidextrous

Result:

ambidextrous

/əˌmədɪˈdɛkrəs/ (def 1)
define: Ambidextrous

adjective

able to use the right and left hands equally well. "few of us are naturally ambidextrous"
Archive of past issues:
You can find and search past issues of the news briefing (2010-2016) at
http://health.bmz.de/services/HESP_News_Briefing/index.php

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