EDITORIAL

Dear colleagues

The DHIS2 success story continues: In the face of climate change, Grenada’s Ministry of Health is adopting the open source software to ease routine health data collection and to allow the health, climate and water sectors to jointly monitor and respond to the climate change effects on human health which are already being felt.

In a panel discussion on “Private Sector Contributions to Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health in Africa” on the sidelines of the G20 with Africa conference, German health system stakeholders and international partners explored how developing local pharmaceutical production can improve access to medicines and help generate the scientific, technological and skills base for building stronger and more resilient health systems.

Are the potential economic benefits of demographic change in Africa ready to be seized? At the 2017 European Development Days GIZ raised this question in a lab debate, taking a closer look at the opportunities and challenges of the Demographic Dividend.

Enjoy the reading!

Your editorial team
Dieter Neuviens, Karolina Luczak Santana, Anna von Roenne

To keep up-to-date
- subscribe to our HESP-News Briefing, sent to you every fortnight per email: visit http://health.bmz.de/services/HESP_News_Briefing/index.php
- subscribe to our RSS feeds (for the entire news briefing or individual thematic categories) to get continuous updates brought to your newsreader
- visit us on the web at health.bmz.de/
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## ONLINE RESOURCES

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

  - A vulnerability assessment in Cairo, Egypt .................................................................................................................................................. 4
  - Realizing the Demographic Dividend in Africa ......................................................................................................................................... 4
  - Improving climate-sensitive disease surveillance in Grenada ...................................................................................................................... 5
  - Private sector can help build African health systems ............................................................................................................................ 5

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

  - Design and initial implementation of the WHO FP umbrella project- to strengthen contraceptive services in the sub-Saharan Africa .................................................................................................................................................................................. 5
  - Managing complications in pregnancy and childbirth: A guide for midwives and doctors ............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 6
  - Validity of a minimally invasive autopsy tool for cause of death determination in pediatric deaths in Mozambique: An observational study ............................................................................................................................................................................. 6
  - Stolen Childhoods: End of Childhood Report 2017 ....................................................................................................................................................... 7
  - Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries ............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 7
  - Global Impact of Rotavirus Vaccination on Childhood Hospitalizations and Mortality from Diarrhea ............................................................................................................................................................................. 7
  - Impact and cost-effectiveness of rotavirus vaccination in Bangladesh ........................................................................................................... 8
  - Child survival revolutions revisited – lessons learned from Bangladesh, Nicaragua, Rwanda and Vietnam .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 8

**HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria** ................................................................................................................................................................................................. 9

  - Non-communicable diseases and HIV care and treatment: models of integrated service delivery ............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 9
  - Consolidated guideline on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 9
  - Active Case-Finding for Tuberculosis by Mobile Teams in Myanmar: Yield and Treatment Outcomes .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 9
  - Cost-effectiveness of Xpert MTB/RIF for tuberculosis diagnosis in South Africa: a real-world cost analysis and economic evaluation .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 10
  - Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, and Cost-effectiveness of Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis to Reduce Progression to Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 10
  - Estimating the future burden of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in India, the Philippines, Russia, and South Africa: a mathematical modelling study .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 10
  - An overview of tuberculosis and migration - State of the Art Series TB and migration .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 11
  - The Economic Value of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets and Indoor Residual Spraying Implementation in Mozambique .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 11
  - The US President’s Malaria Initiative and under-5 child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa: A difference-in-differences analysis .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 12

**Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness** ......................................................................................................... 12

  - Building Communication Capacity to Counter Infectious Disease Threats ........................................................................................................... 12
  - WHO toolkit for the care and support of people affected by complications associated with Zika virus .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 13
  - Mosquitoes that spread Zika virus could simultaneously transmit other viruses .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 13
  - Operational Research during the Ebola Emergency .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 13
  - Pandemics and the poor .............................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................. 14

**Nutrition, Non-Communicable Diseases & Environmental Health (incl. WASH & Climate Change)** ................................................................. 14

  - Starch-Based ‘Super Food’ May Protect Against Variety of Diseases .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 14
  - Child Labour in Agriculture in Protracted Crises, Fragile and Humanitarian Contexts .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 14
  - World Drug Report 2017 .............................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................................. 15
  - Reframing non-communicable diseases as socially transmitted conditions ........................................................................................................... 15
  - Improving access to cancer care: A first analysis of pharmaceutical company actions in low and middle-income countries .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 16
  - WHO’s Adoption of Snakebite Envenoming as Top-level Neglected Tropical Disease .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 16
  - Treating tobacco dependence: guidance for primary care on life-saving interventions. Position statement of the IPCRG .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 16
  - Trends of improved water and sanitation coverage around the globe between 1990 and 2010: inequality among countries and performance of official development assistance .............................................................................................................................................................................................................. 17
  - Comprehensive programming for menstrual health in schools in India ........................................................................................................... 17

**Population Dynamics & Social Determinants of Health (including Gender & Education)** ............................................................................................. 18
ONLINE RESOURCES

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

A vulnerability assessment in Cairo, Egypt

http://health.bmz.de/what_we_do/climate_health/Vulnerability_assessments/50_va_cairo/index.html

Rising temperatures and more frequent and intense heat waves will put a growing number of Egyptians at risk of heat-related health problems. A vulnerability assessment conducted in three informal settlements in Cairo explored the sensitivity and adaptability of pregnant women and young children to heat stress.

Download the document “Protecting Health from Heat Stress in Informal Settlements of the Greater Cairo Region – A qualitative vulnerability and adaptation assessment among pregnant women and mothers of children under five” (58 pp. 1.7 MB):

Realizing the Demographic Dividend in Africa

http://health.bmz.de/events/Events_2017/realizing_demographic_dividend_africa/index.html

Are the potential economic benefits of demographic change in Africa ready to be seized? At the 2017 European Development Days GIZ brought this question to the fore in a lab debate, taking a closer look at the opportunities and challenges of the Demographic Dividend. ‘Investing in Development’ was the motto of this year’s European Development Days (EDD) on June 7 and 8 in Brussels. Hosted by the European Commission, the event has attracted more than 6.000 participants from the international development community every year since 2006 and is thus Europe’s leading forum on development.

Improving Grenada’s health information and disease surveillance system

http://health.bmz.de/what_we_do/climate_health/adaptation_measures/improving_grenadas_health_information_system/index.html

Climate variability and change is likely to affect the prevalence and incidence of infectious diseases in Grenada. A project to digitise routine health information and disease surveillance is enhancing the country’s capacity to identify and respond to future outbreaks and epidemics.
Improving climate-sensitive disease surveillance in Grenada

Grenada’s paper-based health information system is poorly suited for monitoring climate-sensitive diseases. With German support, the Ministry of Health is adopting the open source software DHIS2 which will greatly ease routine data collection – and provide a powerful platform for integrating health, vector and climate data.

Private sector can help build African health systems

Health systems stakeholders from Germany and international partners gathered in Berlin at the side lines of the G20 with Africa conference to discuss “Private Sector Contributions to Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health in Africa”. ‘Passionate partnerships rooted in strong local ownership are the key to reaching Universal Health Coverage’, said Dr. Ndung’u Karau, Kenya’s Ambassador to the United Nations, at the panel discussion hosted by the Friends of the Global Fund on June 13, 2017. Jointly, local and international companies can make these partnerships successful.

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

Design and initial implementation of the WHO FP umbrella project- to strengthen contraceptive services in the sub Saharan Africa

by Rita KabraEmail, Moazzam Ali and James Kiarie

Reproductive Health, 2017 14:74 - Published: 15 June 2017
6 pp. 572 kB

The World Health Organization (WHO) and partners have designed a multifaceted project to strengthen health systems to reduce the unmet need of contraceptive and family planning services in sub Saharan Africa. The plan leverages global, regional and national partnerships to facilitate and increase the use of evidence based WHO guidelines with a specific focus on postpartum family planning. This paper describes the project design and elaborates the multifaceted approaches required in initial implementation to strengthen contraceptive services. The initial results from this project reflect that simultaneous application these approaches may strengthen contraceptive services in Sub
Saharan Africa and ensure sustainability of the efforts. The lessons learned may be used to scale up and expand services in other countries.

**Managing complications in pregnancy and childbirth: A guide for midwives and doctors**

Second edition
by Matthews Mathai, Susheela Engelbrecht, Mercedes Bonet et al.
492 pp. 4.3 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/255760/1/9789241565493-eng.pdf

While most pregnancies and births are uneventful, all pregnancies are at risk. Around 15% of all pregnant women will develop a potentially life-threatening complication that calls for skilled care, and some will require a major obstetrical intervention to survive. This manual is written for midwives and doctors at the district hospital who are responsible for the care of women with complications of pregnancy, childbirth or the immediate postpartum period, including immediate problems of the newborn.

**Validity of a minimally invasive autopsy tool for cause of death determination in pediatric deaths in Mozambique: An observational study**

by Quique Bassat, Paola Castillo, Miguel J. Martínez et al.
16 pp. 1.4 MB

http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002317&type=printable

Our knowledge of what is killing nearly 6 million children annually in low- and middle-income countries remains poor, partly because of the inadequacy and reduced precision of the methods currently utilized in these settings to investigate causes of death (CoDs). The study objective was to validate the use of a minimally invasive autopsy (MIA) approach as an adequate and more acceptable substitute for the complete diagnostic autopsy (CDA) for pediatric CoD investigation in a poor setting. The authors conclude that the MIA showed substantial concordance with CDA for CoD identification in this series of pediatric deaths in Mozambique. This minimally invasive approach, simpler and more readily acceptable than the more invasive CDA, could provide robust data for CoD surveillance, especially in resource-limited settings, which could be helpful for guiding child survival strategies in the future.
**Stolen Childhoods: End of Childhood Report 2017**

by Tracy Geoghegan, Beryl Levinger, Nikki Gillette et al.
Save the Children Federation, Inc., 2017
44 pp. 5.5 MB

http://www.savethechildren.org/atf/cf/%7B9def2ebe-10ae-432c-9bd0-df91d2eba74a%7D/SAVETHECHILDREN_ENDOFCHILDHOOD_INDEX_2017_EASTAFRICA%20EDITION_LOWRES.PDF

The report ranks 172 countries based on where childhood is most intact and where it is most eroded. It shows which countries are succeeding, and failing, to provide conditions that nurture and protect their youngest citizens. The indicators used to measure the end of childhood are: under-five deaths, malnutrition, being out of school, child labour, early marriage, adolescent births, and displacement by conflict and child homicide. For hundreds of millions or more children - childhood has ended too soon. The major reasons include poor health, conflict, extreme violence, child marriage, early pregnancy, malnutrition, exclusion from education and child labour.

**Building the Future: Children and the Sustainable Development Goals in Rich Countries**

by Chris Brazier
UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 14: Children in the Developed World, June 2017
58 pp. 1.0 MB


1 in 5 children in rich countries lives in relative income poverty, while an average of 1 in 8 faces food insecurity, according to the latest UNICEF Report Card. Despite broad economic and social progress that the world’s wealthiest countries have made in recent decades, an under-class of children is being left behind. This Innocenti Report Card analyses inequality in 41 high-income countries. It looks at how far children are falling behind in the dimensions of income, education, health and life satisfaction.

**Global Impact of Rotavirus Vaccination on Childhood Hospitalizations and Mortality from Diarrhea**

by Eleanor Burnett, Christine L. Jonesteller, Jacqueline E. Tate et al.
7 pp. 1.0 MB


In 2006, 2 rotavirus vaccines were licensed. The authors summarize the impact of rotavirus vaccination on hospitalizations and deaths from rotavirus and all-cause acute gastroenteritis (AGE) during the first 10 years since vaccine licensure, including recent evidence from countries with high child mortality. They found that data from 57 studies in 27 countries
showed median reductions of 80% in rotavirus hospitalizations, 38% in all-cause gastroenteritis hospitalizations, and 42% reduction in diarrhea mortality among children <5 years of age since licensure of rotavirus vaccines a decade ago.

**Impact and cost-effectiveness of rotavirus vaccination in Bangladesh**

by Clint Pecenka, Umesh Parashar, Jacqueline E. Tate et al.

*Vaccine* xxx (2017) xxx–xxx

6 pp. 681 kB

http://ac.els-cdn.com/S0264410X17307570/1-s2.0-S0264410X17307570-main.pdf?_tid=d22ab004-53fd-11e7-a282-00000aacb35f&acdnat=1497773707_7d57aab127293def4908aa3380f44b7b

Diarrheal disease is a leading cause of child mortality globally, and rotavirus is responsible for more than a third of those deaths. Despite substantial decreases, the number of rotavirus deaths in children under five was 215,000 per year in 2013. Of these deaths, approximately 41% occurred in Asia and 3% of those in Bangladesh. While Bangladesh has yet to introduce rotavirus vaccination, the country applied for Gavi support and plans to introduce it in 2018. This analysis evaluates the impact and cost-effectiveness of rotavirus vaccination in Bangladesh and provides estimates of the costs of the vaccination program to help inform decision-makers and international partners.

**Child survival revolutions revisited – lessons learned from Bangladesh, Nicaragua, Rwanda and Vietnam**

by Lars Åke Persson, Anisur Rahman, Rodolfo Peña et al.


7 pp. 188 kB

http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/store/10.1111/apa.13830/asset/apa13830.pdf?v=1&t=j3y7b6va&s=bc8bedb8a0b7eade739e66421529a91b63837240

The authors used data from surveillance sites in Bangladesh, Nicaragua and Vietnam and Demographic Health Surveys in Rwanda to explore the development of neonatal and under-five mortality. The mortality curves showed dramatic reductions over time, but child mortality in the four countries peaked during wars and catastrophes and was rapidly reduced by targeted interventions, multisectorial development efforts and community engagement. Lessons learned from these countries may be useful when tackling future challenges, including persistent neonatal deaths, survival inequalities and the consequences of climate change and migration.
Non-communicable diseases and HIV care and treatment: models of integrated service delivery

by Malia Duffy, Bisola Ojikutu, Soa Andrian et al.
Tropical Medicine and International Health, Volume 00, No 00
12 pp. 136 kB

Non-communicable diseases (NCD) are a growing cause of morbidity in low-income countries including in people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Integration of NCD and HIV services can build upon experience with chronic care models from HIV programmes. The authors describe models of NCD and HIV integration, challenges and lessons learned.

Consolidated guideline on sexual and reproductive health and rights of women living with HIV

by Avni Amin, Rachel Baggaley, John Beard et al.
World Health Organization, 2017
144 pp. 1.7 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/254885/1/9789241549998-eng.pdf?ua=1

This guideline is meant to help countries to more effectively and efficiently plan, develop and monitor programmes and services that promote gender equality and human rights and hence are more acceptable and appropriate for women living with HIV, taking into account the national and local epidemiological context. It discusses implementation issues that health interventions and service delivery must address to achieve gender equality and support human rights.

Active Case-Finding for Tuberculosis by Mobile Teams in Myanmar: Yield and Treatment Outcomes

by Ohnmar Myint, Saw Saw, Petros Isaakidis et al.
Infect Dis Poverty. 2017; 6: 77 - Published online 2017 June 2
8 pp. 521 kB

Since 2005, the Myanmar National Tuberculosis Programme (NTP) has been implementing active case finding (ACF) activities involving mobile teams in hard-to-reach areas. This study revealed the
contribution of mobile team activities to total tuberculosis (TB) case detection, characteristics of TB patients detected by mobile teams and their treatment outcomes. This study confirmed the feasibility and acceptability of ACF by mobile teams in hard-to-reach contexts, especially when equipped with portable, digital chest radiography (CXR) machines that provided immediate results. However, the follow-up process of sputum examination created a significant barrier to confirmation of the diagnosis.

Cost-effectiveness of Xpert MTB/RIF for tuberculosis diagnosis in South Africa: a real-world cost analysis and economic evaluation

by Anna Vassall, Mariana Siapka, Nicola Foster et al.
10 pp. 2.0 MB
http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/langlo/PIIS2214-109X(17)30205-X.pdf

In 2010 a new diagnostic test for tuberculosis, Xpert MTB/RIF, received a conditional programmatic recommendation from WHO. Several model-based economic evaluations predicted that Xpert would be cost-effective across sub-Saharan Africa. The authors investigated the cost-effectiveness of Xpert in the real world during national roll-out in South Africa. They found that Xpert introduction in South Africa was cost-neutral, but found no evidence that Xpert improved the cost-effectiveness of tuberculosis diagnosis. Their study highlights the importance of considering implementation constraints, when predicting and evaluating the cost-effectiveness of new tuberculosis diagnostics in South Africa.

Systematic Review, Meta-analysis, and Cost-effectiveness of Treatment of Latent Tuberculosis to Reduce Progression to Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis

by Suzanne M. Marks, Sundari R. Mase, Sapna Bamrah Morris
Clin Infect Dis (2017) 64 (12): 1670-1677 - Published: 14 March 2017
8 pp. 1.0 MB

Evidence-based recommendations for treating persons having presumed latent tuberculosis (LTBI) after contact to infectious multidrug-resistant (MDR) tuberculosis (TB) are lacking because published data consist of small observational studies. Tuberculosis incidence in persons treated for latent MDR-TB infection is unknown. The authors found a reduced risk of TB incidence with treatment for MDR-LTBI, suggesting effectiveness in prevention of progression to MDR-TB, and confirmed cost-effectiveness. However, they found that pyrazinamide-containing MDR-LTBI regimens often resulted in treatment discontinuation due to adverse effects.
Estimating the future burden of multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis in India, the Philippines, Russia, and South Africa: a mathematical modelling study

by Aditya Sharma, Andrew Hill, Ekaterina Kurbatova et al.
9 pp. 526 kB

Multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis are emerging worldwide. The authors used estimates from the Preserving Effective TB Treatment Study to predict MDR and XDR tuberculosis trends in four countries with a high burden of MDR tuberculosis. They conclude that MDR and XDR tuberculosis were forecast to increase in all four countries despite improvements in acquired drug resistance shown by the Green Light Committee-supported programmatic management of drug-resistant tuberculosis. Additional control efforts beyond improving acquired drug resistance rates are needed to stop the spread of MDR and XDR tuberculosis in countries with a high burden of MDR tuberculosis.

An overview of tuberculosis and migration - State of the Art Series TB and migration

by P. Dhavan, H. M. Dias, J. Creswell et al.
Int J Tuberc Lung Dis 21(6):610–623
15 pp. 1.0 MB
http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/iuatld/ijtld/2017/00000021/00000006/art00005

This article is the first in the State-of-the-Art series of the International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease on TB and migration. It provides an overview of migration trends, migration pathways and social determinants, and impact on TB. It outlines a framework for the prevention and reduction of the TB burden among migrants, adapted from the World Health Organization's End TB Strategy, and in accordance with the Stop TB Partnership's Global Plan and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agenda.

The Economic Value of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets and Indoor Residual Spraying Implementation in Mozambique

by Bruce Y. Lee, Sarah M. Bartsch, Nathan T. B. Stone et al.
11 pp. 1.2 MB

Malaria-endemic countries have to decide how much of their limited resources for vector control to allocate toward implementing long-lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) versus indoor residual spraying (IRS). To help the Mozambique Ministry of Health use an evidence-based approach to determine funding allocation toward various malaria control strategies,
the Global Fund convened the Mozambique Modeling Working Group which then used JANUS, a software platform that includes integrated computational economic, operational, and clinical outcome models that can link with different transmission models (in this case, OpenMalaria) to determine the economic value of vector control strategies.

The US President’s Malaria Initiative and under-5 child mortality in sub-Saharan Africa: A difference-in-differences analysis

by Aleksandra Jakubowski, Sally C. Stearns, Margaret E. Kruk et al.

20 pp. 1.4 MB

http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002319&type=printable

Despite substantial financial contributions by the United States President’s Malaria Initiative (PMI) since 2006, no studies have carefully assessed how this program may have affected important population-level health outcomes. The authors utilized multiple publicly available data sources to evaluate the association between introduction of PMI and child mortality rates in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). They conclude that PMI may have significantly contributed to reducing the burden of malaria in SSA and reducing the number of child deaths in the region. Introduction of PMI was associated with increased coverage of malaria prevention technologies, which are important mechanisms through which child mortality can be reduced.

Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness

Building Communication Capacity to Counter Infectious Disease Threats

Proceedings of a Workshop (2017)

Rapporteurs: V. Ayano Ogawa, Ceci Mundaca-Shah, and Joe Alper
National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Health and Medicine Division;
Board on Global Health; Forum on Microbial Threats;
139 pp. 2.2 MB

https://download.nap.edu/cart/download.cgi?record_id=24738

Building communication capacity is a critical piece of preparing for, detecting, and responding to infectious disease threats. The International Health Regulations (IHR) establish risk communication - the real-time exchange of information, advice, and opinions between experts or officials and people who face a threat to their survival, health, and economic or social well-being - as a core capacity that World Health Organization member states must fulfill to strengthen the fight against these threats.
WHO toolkit for the care and support of people affected by complications associated with Zika virus

by Shekhar Saxena, Anthony Costello, Alarcos Cieza et al.
World Health Organization, 2017
264 pp. 6.3 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/255718/1/9789241512718-eng.pdf?ua=1

Zika virus (ZIKV) is associated with severe neurological complications, particularly congenital Zika virus syndrome and Guillain Barré syndrome. The associated complications have a marked impact on the people affected and their communities, including both physical and mental health. This toolkit incorporates and builds upon the relevant guidelines and supportive documents developed in the past year from WHO and partners as part of the overall global response to ZIKV. The toolkit is designed to serve as a model guide, with the goal of enhancing country preparedness for ZIKV outbreaks. It is essential that the toolkit be adapted to the unique national or local context before implementation.

Mosquitoes that spread Zika virus could simultaneously transmit other viruses

by Mary Guiden
Colorado State University, 19 May, 2017
Read online at:

A new study led by Colorado State University researchers found that Aedes aegypti, the primary mosquito that carries Zika virus, might also transmit chikungunya and dengue viruses with one bite. The findings shed new light on what's known as a coinfection, which scientists said is not yet fully understood and may be fairly common in areas experiencing outbreaks.

Operational Research during the Ebola Emergency

by Gabriel Fitzpatrick, Tom Decroo, Bertrand Draguez et al.
Emerging Infectious Diseases, Vol. 23, Nr. 7, July 2017
6 pp. 772 kB

Operational research is defined as the search for knowledge on interventions, strategies, or tools that can enhance the quality, effectiveness, or coverage of programs in which the research is being done. During the recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa, operational research was integrated into the response of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to the emergency with the aim of controlling spread of the virus, improving patient outcomes, assessing the feasibility of new interventions, and advocating for policy change based on findings. Importantly, most op-
erational research questions were decided by those in the field who had first-hand experience of the challenges encountered on a daily basis. This policy helped focus operational research to produce findings that were relevant to the emergency response.

**Pandemics and the poor**

by Ben Oppenheim and Gavin Yamey
Brookings, June 19, 2017
Read online at:
https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2017/06/19/pandemics-and-the-poor/

When epidemics or pandemics hit, they usually hit the poor first and worst. We have known this for a while. What we have not known, until recently, is how best to help the poor protect themselves from pandemics. To understand why the poor are more vulnerable to epidemics and pandemics and what protections are required, we need to consider how outbreaks first start, how they spread, and how they affect individuals and societies.

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

**Starch-Based ‘Super Food’ May Protect Against Variety of Diseases**

by Rita Rubin
JAMA - Published online June 21, 2017
2 pp. 392 kB
http://jamanetwork.com/pdfaccess.ashx?url=/data/journals/jama/0/jama_rubin_2017_mn_170030.pdf&routename=jama

High-amylose maize starch is used to increase the fibre content in foods such as nutrition bars and improve the texture of gluten-free crackers and cookies, among other products. And now, mouse studies suggest that modifying this starch by chemically linking acetate or butyrate to it might protect against autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes and inflammatory bowel disease.

**Child Labour in Agriculture in Protracted Crises, Fragile and Humanitarian Contexts**

by Alyson Eynon, Ariane Genthon, Jacqueline Demeranville et al.
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 2017
34 pp. 2.7 MB
http://www.fao.org/3/a-i7403e.pdf
This guide is aimed at development professionals, policy makers and civil society groups working on agriculture, food security and nutrition programming. Conflict and disaster can push children into work that is unsuitable for their age, is likely to harm their physical and mental development and deprives them of the opportunity to learn. Child labour during a crisis perpetuates the intergenerational cycle of poverty and hinders recovery. Children who leave school or do not return to school after a crisis are more likely to remain poor. Striving to address child labour through programmes that improve agriculture, food security and nutrition is key. The agricultural sector holds great potential to increase poor rural households’ food security and livelihoods, and helps rural communities recover faster from a shock and avoid negative coping strategies such as pulling children out of school to work.

World Drug Report 2017

In 2015 about a quarter of a billion people used drugs. Of these, around 29.5 million people - or 0.6 per cent of the global adult population - were engaged in problematic use and suffered from drug use disorders, including dependence. Opioids were the most harmful drug type and accounted for 70 per cent of the negative health impact associated with drug use disorders worldwide. The 2017 World Drug Report provides a global overview of the supply and demand of opiates, cocaine, cannabis, amphetamine-type stimulants and new psychoactive substances (NPS), as well as their impact on health. It highlights the scientific evidence for hepatitis C causing greatest harm among people who use drugs; and brings into view further diversification of the thriving drug market, as well as changing business models for drug trafficking and organized crime.

Reframing non-communicable diseases as socially transmitted conditions

In a Comment (February, 2017), the authors argued that action on the conditions currently referred to as non-communicable diseases (NCDs) may be hampered by the inadequacy of their label. They received a remarkable amount of feedback on this suggestion, and in this Comment they synthesise the responses garnered from a Lancet Facebook poll, Correspondence letters and a related Global Health Delivery (GHD) Online discussion. They also propose a new definition based on shared social drivers.
Improving access to cancer care: A first analysis of pharmaceutical company actions in low and middle-income countries

by Karin P Q Oomen, Suvi Karuranga, Jayasree K. Iyer
Access to Medicine Foundation, May 2017
92 pp. 2.0 MB

Cancer rates are rising in developing countries, where around 65% of all cancer deaths occur. Yet many cancers are now curable – provided local healthcare systems can swiftly identify people with cancer and treat them effectively. Awareness of the growing crisis in cancer care in poorer countries is increasing as cancer care is being prioritised at a policy level, reports are also emerging of public–private initiatives to improve cancer care. The Access to Medicine Foundation has now provided a first overview of pharmaceutical company activity in this space.

WHO’s Adoption of Snakebite Envenoming as Top-level Neglected Tropical Disease

Health Action International (HAI) and Global Snakebite Initiative (GSI) 12 June 2017. 2 pp. 236 kB

Health Action International (HAI) and the Global Snakebite Initiative (GSI) have commended the World Health Organization’s (WHO) landmark decision to adopt snakebite envenoming as a ‘category A’ neglected tropical disease (NTD) - the WHO’s highest possible ranking for an NTD. The category A-NTD listing is expected to spark the development and implementation of a long overdue global strategy to control, eliminate and eradicate snakebite envenoming by the WHO’s Department of Control of NTDs and member states. Snakebite envenoming is a catastrophic global health issue that kills and disables hundreds of thousands of people every year and forces victims and their families further into poverty.

Treating tobacco dependence: guidance for primary care on life-saving interventions. Position statement of the IPCRG

by O. C. P. Van Schayck, S. Williams, V. Barchilon et al.
Primary Care Respiratory Medicine (2017) 27:38
12 pp. 577 kB
https://www.nature.com/articles/s41533-017-0039-5.epdf

A quarter of the world population still smokes and at least one out of every two smokers will die due to smoking. Primary care physicians are the most important care providers for smoking cessation treatment in many countries in the world. Yet, there many reasons why primary care physicians are
hesitant or even reluctant to deliver this care, such as time constraints or a perception of lack of competence. This position statement gives practical guidance to the primary care physician to overcome these constraints. A very brief advice hardly costs any time and saves many lives worldwide when given by a primary care provider.

**Trends of improved water and sanitation coverage around the globe between 1990 and 2010: inequality among countries and performance of official development assistance**

by Seungman Cha, Paul Mansiangi Mankadi, Mousab Siddig Elhag et al.

Global Health Action, Vol. 10, 2017 - Issue 1
14 pp. 2.0 MB


As the Millennium Development Goals ended, and were replaced by the Sustainable Development Goals, efforts have been made to evaluate the achievements and performance of official development assistance (ODA) in the health sector. In this study, the authors explore trends in the expansion of water and sanitation coverage in developing countries and the performance of ODA.

**Comprehensive programming for menstrual health in schools in India**

by Arundati Muralidharan

WaterAid, India 2017

Read online at:


Schools offer a crucial chance for menstrual hygiene programmes to make transformations that will benefit adolescent girls long into their futures. The author, WaterAid India’s Policy Manager for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools, Health and Nutrition, describes the menstrual hygiene landscape in India’s schools, and the work WaterAid India is doing to improve it.
Population Dynamics & Social Determinants of Health (including Gender & Education)

World Population Prospects – The 2017 Revision

The 2017 Revision of the World Population Prospects builds on previous revisions by incorporating additional results from the 2010 and 2020 rounds of national population censuses as well as findings from recent specialized sample surveys from around the world. The 2017 Revision provides a comprehensive set of demographic data and indicators to assess population trends at the global, regional and national levels and to calculate many other key indicators commonly used by the United Nations system.

State of the World’s Fathers: Time for Action

Caregiving and unpaid care work are at the heart of any discussion of the state of the world’s fathers, and at the heart of gender inequality. For all the attention paid to unpaid care work, however, in no country in the world do men’s contributions to unpaid care work equal women’s. At the same time, looking back to the first State of the World’s Fathers report released in 2015, there are examples from around the world affirming that change is possible. Many men want to be more involved in the lives of their children. This report affirms that change – from the individual to the policy level – is happening.

Infectious disease research and the gender gap

Caregiving and unpaid care work are at the heart of any discussion of the state of the world’s fathers, and at the heart of gender inequality. For all the attention paid to unpaid care work, however, in no country in the world do men’s contributions to unpaid care work equal women’s. At the same time, looking back to the first State of the World’s Fathers report released in 2015, there are examples from around the world affirming that change is possible. Many men want to be more involved in the lives of their children. This report affirms that change – from the individual to the policy level – is happening.

Infectious disease research and the gender gap

by J. Sommerfeld, L. Manderson, B. Ramirez et al.
5 pp. 416 kB
Historically, women have been less likely to be supported through higher degree training programmes, and they continue to hold more junior positions in science. This paper reviews the current gender research and gender capacity-building efforts led by the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases (TDR). Created more than 40 years ago as the only United Nations-based Special Programme dedicated to research and research capacity building on infectious diseases, TDR has a longstanding track record both in supporting research into gender-specific questions and in research capacity strengthening among women scientists. The authors provide an overview of these approaches, then describe a recent pilot programme on Women in Science, designed to understand and remedy the gender gaps in health research.

Reducing global poverty through universal primary and secondary education

A new UNESCO policy paper shows that the global poverty rate could be more than halved if all adults completed secondary school. Yet, new data from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) show persistently high out-of-school rates in many countries, making it likely that completion levels in education will remain well below that target for generations to come. The paper demonstrates the importance of recognizing education as a core lever for ending poverty in all its forms, everywhere.

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

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have enormous potential to fast forward progress on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve people’s lives in fundamental ways. While we still have a long way to go - some 3.9 billion people are still unconnected to the Internet - we have made great strides. This special edition of ITU News Magazine highlights that progress. It lays out specific examples of how governments, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders are using ICTs to accelerate the achievement of SDGs, and it tells the stories of individuals whose lives have improved as a result.
Fostering Medical Innovation: A Plan for Digital Health Devices

by Scott Gottlieb

Food and Drug Administration (FDA), June 2017
Read online at:

FDA will soon be putting forward a broad initiative that is focused on fostering new innovation across our medical product centers. Today we want to focus on one critical aspect of this innovation initiative: A new Digital Health Innovation Plan that is focused on fostering innovation at the intersection of medicine and digital health technology. This plan will include a novel, post-market approach to how we intend to regulate these digital medical devices. According to one estimate, last year there were 165,000 health-related apps available for Apple or Android smartphones. Forecasts predict that such apps would be downloaded 1.7 billion times by 2017. From mobile apps and fitness trackers to clinical decision support software, innovative digital technologies have the power to transform health care in important ways.

e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA) mobile phone application

Since 2011, the WHO e-Library of Evidence for Nutrition Actions (eLENA) has provided more than 1 million users with evidence-informed guidance and related information for nutrition interventions. There is a recognized need for access to eLENA content in settings without regular or reliable internet access. In order to address this unmet need, the Nutrition Policy and Scientific Advice Unit of the WHO Department of Nutrition for Health and Development has developed an eLENA mobile phone application, eLENAmobile, which delivers much of the content of eLENA to smartphones and can be accessed anywhere – no internet connection required.

Download eLENAmobile for iPhones and Android smartphones now, at Google Play or the Apple App Store.


by Ahmad Reza Hosseinpoor and Nicole Bergen
World Health Organization, 2017
54 pp. 3.5 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/255652/1/9789241512183-eng.pdf

Health inequality monitoring should be a central component of national health information systems. Surprisingly, however, national health information systems often neglect to capture within-country inequalities. This manual serves as a step-by-step practical refer-
ence to support countries in building capacity for integrating health inequality monitoring into their health information systems. It presents a range of World Health Organization tools and resources developed for measuring and reporting health inequality. As such, this manual aims to contribute to improved monitoring of health inequalities in countries, a practice that is essential to ensure accountability for the goals and targets of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Trust and Credibility in Web-Based Health Information: A Review and Agenda for Future Research

by Laura Sbaffi and Jennifer Rowley
Journal of Medical Internet Research, Vol. 19, No. 6 (2017): June - Published on 19.06.17
17 pp. 763 kB
http://www.jmir.org/article/viewFile/jmir_v19i6e218/2

The aim of this study was to review empirical studies on trust and credibility in the use of Web-based health information (WHI). The article seeks to present a profile of the research conducted on trust and credibility in WHI seeking, to identify the factors that impact judgments of trustworthiness and credibility, and to explore the role of demographic factors affecting trust formation. On this basis, it aimed to identify the gaps in current knowledge and to propose an agenda for future research.

Data for Development: DAC Member Priorities and Challenges

by Valentina Sanna and Ida Mc Donnell
OECD Development Co-operation Working Papers 35, June 2017
27 pp. 529 kB
http://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/content/workingpaper/6e342488-en

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development commits the international community to support the modernisation and strengthening of national statistical capacities and systems in developing countries and to increase significantly the availability of high-quality, timely, reliable and disaggregated data to measure their progress against the Sustainable Development Goals. This paper, informed by a survey circulated among DAC members between February and April 2017, presents DAC members’ policies and practices to support national statistical capacities and systems in developing countries.
Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies

As polio approaches elimination, transition poses risk

by Adva Saldinger
Devex, 13 June 2017
Read online at:

As donors gear up for a final push to eradicate polio, the aid community is beginning to consider what elimination would mean for global health. Many countries’ health systems have been built or strengthened around efforts to end the disease. What happens when polio, and the billions of donor funding it garners, are gone? Advocates and international organizations now believe the transition to a post-polio world will be a pivotal, make-or-break moment for public health. A number of efforts are underway to plan for it now, including the World Health Organization’s recent polio transition planning document, launched at the World Health Assembly last month.

Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection

Social protection: towards gender equality

by Raquel Tebaldi and Flora Myamba
Policy in Focus, Vol. 14, Issue No. 1, March 2017
36 pp. 3.2 MB

Social protection has become prominent in the global development agenda over recent decades, with social protection systems now being included as a target under Sustainable Development Goal 1: ‘End poverty in all its forms everywhere’. In developing countries, these policies have played an important role in alleviating extreme poverty, among other impacts that are increasingly being investigated. This special edition of ‘Policy in Focus’, which is being released for International Women’s Day 2017, covers key topics related to gender equality and social protection, featuring a wide range of contributions from women policy practitioners and scholars, presenting case studies and reflections from Brazil and various African countries.

Costs and Potential Funding of Expanded Public Pension Coverage in Asia

by Peter J. Morgan and Long Q. Trinh
Asian Development Bank Institute, June 2017
40 pp. 904 kB
Public pension burdens in most emerging Asian economies are still relatively small. However, there are a number of reasons to believe that they will increase markedly in the coming years. The first objective of this paper is to identify the potential fiscal burden of public pensions in 23 emerging Asian economies, based on econometric models and forecasts of GDP and demographic trends. The second objective is to recommend policies to provide adequate funding for public pension needs, including enhancing the efficiency of social insurance programs, improving the balance of revenues and expenditures, implementing more explicit fiscal rules and frameworks, and establishing stronger fiscal surveillance at the national and regional levels.

**Mongolia Social Protection Sector Fact Sheet**

Asian Development Bank (ADB), June 2017
4 pp. 772 kB


Due to persistent economic volatility, limited diversification, internal migration, and rapid urbanization, Mongolia currently faces rising inequality, expanding informal sector employment, and increasing vulnerability. This requires continuous focus on further improving the country’s social protection and welfare system. Through a mixture of programs, projects and technical assistance (TA) the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has helped Mongolia mitigate the adverse impacts of economic crises, ensure fiscal sustainability, develop welfare systems, and improve social protection services and service delivery.

**Social Transfers**

**Cash transfers help the extreme poor**

by Frank Bliss
Development and Cooperation, 12 March 2017
Read online at:

Germany and other industrialised states consider social protection very important and spend a lot of money on the matter. But when it came to development assistance, the idea of social transfers to the needy was next to taboo around the world for a long time. Things are changing – and that may help put an end to extreme poverty. Providing social assistance to the extreme poor will significantly shape development aid in the future. There are many questions, however, concerning how such aid will be distributed.
Inclusion of People with Disabilities

Call to invest in disability-inclusive education

International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), April 2017
6 pp. 1.2 MB
https://iddcconsortium.net/sites/default/files/resources-tools/files/call_to_action_accessible_20170616.pdf

On Thursday 27th April 2017, more than 40 international and national non-profit organisations launched a ‘Call to Action to Invest in Disability-Inclusive Education’. The joint call highlights the shocking fact that more than 32 million children with disabilities in developing countries are estimated to be out of school. In the joint statement the world’s leading NGOs working in disability and education in low and middle income countries call on governments and donors to significantly step up action to deliver on the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals to ensure quality education for all children, by investing in inclusive education for boys and girls with disabilities. They also commit to making education for children with disabilities in developing countries a top priority, advocating for better donor financing for inclusive education.

Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation

20 Solution Proposals for the G20

from the T20 Engagement Group, Germany, May 2017
18 pp. 2.8 MB

This report, by the co-chairs of the T20 process during Germany’s G20 Presidency, presents 20 key policy recommendations for G20 policy-makers and stakeholders. The policy recommendations are formulated concisely to be easily accessible to those seeking a short summary of the main conclusions. Readers who are interested in the detailed recommendations are referred to the Policy Briefs in the G20 Insights Platform (www.g20-insights.org). This report includes only a selection of policy recommendations that have been chosen for their novelty, ease of implementation and relevance to the G20 during the German Presidency. The G20 Insights Platform contains the full range of T20 policy recommendations.

The G20 »Compact with Africa«: Unsuitable for African Low-Income Countries

by Robert Kappel and Helmut Reisen
Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, June 2017
16 pp. 160 kB

hesp-news-briefing Issue 13/2017
The »Compact with Africa« (CWA) - an initiative within the G20’s finance track - is a key pillar of the G20 Africa Partnership. In its resolution - adopted by G20 finance ministers and central bank governors in Baden-Baden on March 17-18, 2017 — the G20 has acknowledged its special responsibility to join forces in tackling the challenges facing the world’s poorest countries, especially in Africa. Notwithstanding that declaration, the CWA gives little attention to the specificities of the many low-income countries on the African continent.

The New European Consensus On Development ‘Our World, Our Dignity, Our Future’

The New European Consensus on Development is a common framework for European development efforts, applying to all EU Institutions and all Member States, which commit to work more closely together. It keeps poverty eradication as a number one priority, aims to swiftly implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into EU policy, aligns the private sector’s involvement in social and environmental standards and offers more democratic oversight of financial tools, which tackle the root causes of migration.

European Journal of Public Health Supplement Papers: Influencing policy to maximise health gain in European cities

Globally, the majority of people now live in urban areas. The focus of policymakers should not just be on a narrow health perspective but also on the need to improve the environment, social status and quality of life of urban populations by all means possible. Multidisciplinary, trans-sectoral research into evidence-based policy-making, i.e. from bench to populations, is the only way to bring about real health gain for the global urban resident. ‘Health is wealth’ must be the rallying cry for all urban policy-makers.
Miscellaneous

Search the TRIP resource database for free

You can find the TRIP database on the right hand side of the Africa Health homepage and access this resource completely free of charge:

https://africa-health.com/?ct=t%2811_30_2015%29

TRIP (Turning Research into Practice) is a database which gives you access to millions of articles, all indexed and uniquely ranked. Content is entirely evidence-based and peer-reviewed, and in addition to the scientific articles on every medical subject you can imagine; the database also includes a host of guidelines on treatment and management protocols. The database is searchable using a filtering system, enabling you to be more specific with your search words and/or terms.

Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2016

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), June 2017
72 pp. 6.6 MB

http://www.unhcr.org/5943e8a34.pdf#zoom=95

Over the past two decades, the global population of forcibly displaced people has grown substantially from 33.9 million in 1997 to 65.6 million in 2016, and it remains at a record high. UNHCR counts and tracks the numbers of refugees, internally displaced people, people who have returned to their countries or areas of origin, asylum-seekers, stateless people and other populations of concern to UNHCR. These data are kept up to date and analyzed in terms of various criteria, such as where people are, their age and whether they are male or female. This process is extremely important in order to meet the needs of refugees and other populations of concern across the world and the data help organizations and States to plan their humanitarian response.

Presence & Proximity - To Stay And Deliver, Five Years On

by Ashley Jackson and Steven A. Zyck
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), and the Jindal School of International Affairs (JSIA), 2017
94 pp. 3.7 MB


The report shows that humanitarian community continues to grapple with the problem of its ability to stay and deliver effectively and responsibly in highly insecure environments. Progress has been
made in a number of areas. Humanitarian leaders consistently talk of their commitment to staying and delivering where at all feasible, and we have seen notable instances where UN agencies, NGOs, and others have stayed and delivered at great risk. Yet despite these improvements, this study also broadly finds that not enough has changed, particularly at the field level, since the publication of “To Stay and Deliver” in 2011.

Healthy, Resilient, and Sustainable Communities after Disasters: Strategies, Opportunities, and Planning for Recovery

Institute of Medicine; Board on Health Sciences Policy; Committee on Post-Disaster Recovery of a Community’s Public Health, Medical, and Social Services, 2017
505 pp. 9.8 MB
https://download.nap.edu/cart/download.cgi?record_id=18996

In the devastation that follows a major disaster, there is a need for multiple sectors to unite and devote new resources to support the rebuilding of infrastructure, the provision of health and social services, the restoration of care delivery systems, and other critical recovery needs. A return to pre-event conditions in such cases may be short-sighted given the high costs - both economic and social - of poor health. Instead, it is important to understand that the disaster recovery process offers a series of unique and valuable opportunities to improve on the status quo. Capitalizing on these opportunities can advance the long-term health, resilience, and sustainability of communities - thereby better preparing them for future challenges.

Issue Brief - Planetary Health

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), 19 June 2017
2 pp. 921 kB

Planetary Health, a new trans-disciplinary field, calls for new efforts to simultaneously safeguard human health and the natural systems that underpin it. It encourages integrated approaches to address the health and the broader social, environmental and economic impacts of increasing pressures on our planet, and can be a useful frame for supporting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, ensuring that no one is left behind. This issue brief explores what is meant by planetary health, and how it can inform UNDP’s work at the nexus of environmental sustainability and climate change, disaster risk reduction, health, gender equality, and poverty alleviation. It offers examples of ongoing work and key entry points for future activities and partnerships.
CONFERENCES & TRAINING

Online courses: OpenWHO

https://openwho.org/

OpenWHO is WHO’s new interactive, web-based, knowledge-transfer platform offering online courses to improve the response to health emergencies. OpenWHO enables the Organization and its key partners to transfer life-saving knowledge to large numbers of frontline responders.

The OpenWHO platform delivers WHO's and partners' expertise closer to where it is needed and provides information in user-friendly formats for frontline responders and decision-makers. The platform is managed by WHO’s Department for Infectious Hazards Management, in Geneva, Switzerland.

Online course: Public Health in Humanitarian Crises

Created by Johns Hopkins University

https://www.coursera.org/learn/humanitarian-public-health

This course introduces a set of public health problems experienced by people affected by natural disasters and/or conflict. It discusses the many changes in people’s lives when they are uprooted by a disaster, ranging from changes in disease patterns, access to health care, livelihoods, shelter, sanitary conditions, nutritional status, etc. The massive online open course (MOOC) covers health care and disease management, humanitarian coordination, water and sanitation, food security, and shelter and human rights. The free Coursera course takes an estimated 11-15 hours to complete and is open anytime, anywhere in the world.

Mobile Health (mHealth) Technologies for HIV/AIDS Implementation

August 21 – September 01, 2017
Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA)
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa

Application Deadline: August 07, 2017

Please contact Mrs Gloria Bowes (Gloria.Bowes@wits.ac.za) or Dr Sumaya Mall (sumaya.mall@wits.ac.za) for enquiries about registering.

This course aims to present a broad range of perspectives on mHealth and impact on the future of HIV/AIDS implementation research. Through case studies, multimedia tutorials, interactive exercises, and live demonstrations of tools, participants will explore delivery mechanisms, such as interac-
tive voice recognition (IVR), SMS (text message) communication programs, smartphone applications, and health information systems for data collection and management.

TIPS & TRICKS

CAPTCHA Tests

CAPTCHA is rather odd sounding, but it is something we all have to deal with on our computers from time to time. CAPTCHA stands for Completely Automated Public Turing [test to tell] Computers and Humans Apart. It is basically a kind of response test used with computers to determine if a user is human or not. In other words, when you are on certain Web sites (e.g. creating a Google Account), you have to type in a series of letters and numbers in order to continue. That’s a CAPTCHA test. The code is sometimes distorted or it will have a design behind it that makes it a little harder to read. It is something like this (mischint):

CAPTCHA tests are sometimes hard to solve, but they are there for our own good. They are mainly used for security, especially on Web sites that require you to enter in your personal information. Sometimes hackers use what are called bots to attack users. The bots are generated by computers and in reali-
ty, computers are unable to solve the CAPTCHA tests. Only humans can type in the right code and continue on, so that really helps in keeping you safe.

**Quick Paragraph Relocation in MS WORD**

Do you sometimes find yourself highlighting entire paragraphs in an MS Word document for relocation? So, what do you do? You first highlight the entire paragraph, then you use the mouse to grab and hold the paragraph and while still using the mouse, you run the pointer up and down the document to find the "right place" to drop the paragraph.

Here is a mouseless, three key solution to the situation that works so much better! The next time you need to move an entire paragraph, try this little trick:

- Put your cursor in the paragraph you want to move.
- Now, hold down the Alt + Shift keys.
- Press the up or down arrow in whichever direction you need to move your paragraph.

That’s it! Each time you press an arrow key (while still holding Alt + Shift), your text is moved one paragraph up or down. To move something a long way, simply hold down the arrow key and let it go!