Dear colleagues,

In order to raise global awareness, World TB Day was celebrated on March 24th.

In this context and to put the commitment to “leave no one behind” into action, WHO has launched an ethics guidance for the implementation of the end TB strategy. Furthermore, the Global Fund called for attention to drug-resistant TB as it accounts for about one-third of all antimicrobial resistance related deaths worldwide.

In addition, the P4H Leadership for Universal Health Coverage (L4UHC) programme facilitated a vivid exchange among policy makers and health professionals from Benin, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire and Madagascar on how to actually realize UHC.

Scroll through the full newsletter for many more interesting publications on TB, UHC and a wide range of other health and social protection topics.

Your editorial team
Dieter Neuvians, 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 ................................................. 5
‘It’s time to act’: A video about climate change and health ............................................................................ 5
Fostering leadership for UHC in Francophone Africa ......................................................................................... 5
Reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child and adolescent health & Right to health ........................................... 5
Community Health Workers as Social Marketers of Injectable Contraceptives: A Case Study from Ethiopia .... 5
Intimate partner violence and constraints to reproductive autonomy and reproductive health among women seeking abortion services in Bangladesh ........................................................................ 6
Access to and Quality of Menstrual Regulation and Postabortion Care in Bangladesh: Evidence from a Survey of Health Facilities, 2014 ......................................................... 6
The promotion of intra-uterine contraception in low- and middle-income countries: a narrative review ........ 6
Mowing from legality to reality: how medical abortion methods were introduced with implementation science in Zambia? What You Need to Know About the Global Gag Rule ........................................................................ 7
Inheriting a sustainable world: Atlas on children’s health and the environment ............................................ 8

HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria................................................................................................................................. 8
Patient-reported barriers and facilitators to antiretroviral adherence in sub-Saharan Africa ................................ 8
UNAIDS sponsored supplement: Approaches and tools for 2016 country-specific HIV and AIDS estimates ...... 8
World Tuberculosis Day 2017 ......................................................................................................................... 9
World Tuberculosis Day: Calling Attention to TB in Pregnancy ................................................................. 9
Ethics guidance for the implementation of the End TB strategy .................................................................... 9
Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe, 2017 ......................................................................... 10
Drug-resistant TB: A Growing Global Health Threat .................................................................................... 10
Use of low-dose computed tomography to assess pulmonary tuberculosis among healthcare workers in a tuberculosis hospital ................................................................. 11
Knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding tuberculosis care among health workers in Southern Mozambique ........ 11
The epidemiology, pathogenesis, transmission, diagnosis, and management of multidrug-resistant, extensively drug-resistant, and incurable tuberculosis ........................................................................... 11
Treatment of Uncomplicated Malaria among Women of Reproductive Age .................................................... 12
Analytical sensitivity of current best-in-class malaria rapid diagnostic tests ................................................ 12
The Economic Value of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets and Indoor Residual Spraying Implementation in Mozambique .. 13

Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness ........................................ 13
Effectiveness of a triple-drug regimen for global elimination of lymphatic filariasis: a modelling study ................ 13
Evaluation of a Mobile Phone-Based Microscope for Screening of Schistosoma haematobium Infection in Rural Ghana 13
Controlling schistosomiasis with praziquantel: How much longer without a viable alternative? ................. 14

Nutrition, Non-Communicable Diseases & Environmental Health (incl. WASH & Climate Change) ... 14
2017 Global Food Policy Report .................................................................................................................. 14
Global Report on Food Crises 2017 ............................................................................................................. 15
Sustainable Food Systems: The Role of the City .......................................................................................... 15
mGAP Intervention Guide - Version 2.0 for mental, neurological and substance use disorders in non-specialized health settings ......................................................................................... 15
Thirsting for a Future: Water and children in a changing climate ............................................................. 16
Diffuse Pollution, Degraded Waters: Emerging Policy Solutions ............................................................ 16
Wastewater: The Untapped Resource .......................................................................................................... 17
Managing hygiene promotion in WASH programmes ..................................................................................... 17
Obstacles to WASH ....................................................................................................................................... 17
Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS): Kenya creates online system to monitor rural sanitation .......... 18
World Meteorological Organization Statement on the State of the Global Climate in 2016 ......................... 18
From the ground up: How communities can collaborate to drive local adaptation and influence the national agenda ... 18

Population Dynamics & Social Determinants of Health (including Gender & Education) ........................ 19
Training Manual: Gender Leadership in Humanitarian Action ..................................................................... 19
Health Promotion at School: Pedagogical Aspects and Practical Implications ............................................. 19

hesp-news-briefing Issue 07/2017
Health System Governance, Health Workforce and Health Information Systems ........................................ 20
Improving Employment and working conditions in health services .......................................................... 20
Factors influencing recruitment and retention of healthcare workers in rural and remote areas in developed
developing countries: an overview ........................................................................................................ 20
Retention and sustainability of community-based health volunteers’ activities: A qualitative study in rural Northern
Ghana ....................................................................................................................................................... 20
Institutional Repository LinkOut: A New Full Text Access Feature in PubMed .............................................. 21
Internet- Delivered Health Interventions that Work: Systematic Review of Meta-Analyses and Evaluation of Website
Availability ................................................................................................................................................ 21
Senegal’s Journey Toward eHealth Strategy: Highlights from the Development Process ............................. 22
Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies ........................................................................ 22
WHO Drug Information Vol. 31, No. 1, 2017 ............................................................................................... 22
Improving Access to and Appropriate Use of Medicines for Mental Disorders ........................................ 22
Antimicrobial resistance in the WHO African region: current status and roadmap for action .................... 23
Fentanyl and its analogues - 50 years on ...................................................................................................... 23
Impact of introduction of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria on antibiotic prescribing: analysis of observational and
randomised studies in public and private healthcare settings ..................................................................... 24
Efficacy of a Low-Cost, Heat-Stable Oral Rotavirus Vaccine in Niger ..................................................... 24
Can science rob snakes of their deadliest weapon? .................................................................................... 24
Management and Quality of Health Services and Facilities ..................................................................... 25
Quality of care in contraceptive information and services, based on human rights standards: A checklist for health care
providers ..................................................................................................................................................... 25
Can We Expect Results-Based Financing to Improve Quality of Care? ..................................................... 25
Adapting What Works In Primary Care: A Getting Started Resource for Program Managers ................... 26
“Medspeak” can shut down effective communication with patients ............................................................ 26
The Role of Universal Health Literacy Precautions in Minimizing “Medspeak” and Promoting Shared Decision Making... 27
Monitoring and evaluating digital health interventions: A practical guide to conducting research and assessment ...... 27
Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection ........................................ 27
Financing of Universal Health Coverage and Family Planning: A Multi-Regional Landscape Study and Analysis of Select
West African Countries .................................................................................................................................. 27
Health Systems & Reform: Special Issue on Results-Based Financing (RBF) .............................................. 28
Health Economics, Policy and Law Special Issue: Towards a Global Framework for Health Financing ............... 28
Indicators to measure social protection performance: implications for European Commission programming ...... 28
Old Age, Unemployment and Occupational Injuries Protection ............................................................... 29
Ageing and the city: Making urban spaces work for older people .............................................................. 29
Strengthening the Workforce to Support Community Living and Participation for Older Adults and Individuals with
Disabilities .................................................................................................................................................... 29
Dementia and aging populations - A global priority for contextualized research and health policy ............... 30
Dementia in low-income and middle-income countries: Different realities mandate tailored solutions .......... 30
Social Transfers ........................................................................................................................................ 30
Global Framework for Action: A Consolidated Summary of Commitments for Cash Transfer Programming ........ 30
Inclusion of People with Disabilities ........................................................................................................ 31
Meeting Report - Rehabilitation 2030: A Call for Action ........................................................................ 31
Prevalence of HIV infection among people with disabilities: a population-based observational study in Yaoundé,
Cameroon (HandiVIH) ................................................................................................................................. 31
“You must carry your wheelchair” – barriers to accessing healthcare in a South African rural area ................. 32
Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation .................... 32
The U.S. Government: Engagement in Global Health: A Primer ................................................................. 32
Where We Fall Down: Tensions in Teaching Social Medicine and Global Health ...................................... 32
Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity .................................................................................. 33
Trade and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): How Can Trade in Education Services Contribute to the SDGs? .... 33
Global Trends: Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals ....... 34
Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone.............................................................34
Gates Foundation’s rose-colored world view not supported by evidence............................................................34
AI for social good: How artificial intelligence can boost sustainable development........................................35
Start Fund Alerts Dashboard...........................................................................................................................35
Local aid agencies: still waiting for a bigger share of the funding cake............................................................36

Miscellaneous ......................................................................................................................................................36
World Happiness Report 2017..............................................................................................................................36
Journal of Public Health in Africa.......................................................................................................................36
Eurohealth: Harnessing Big Data for Health .........................................................................................................37

CONFERENCES & TRAINING...............................................................................................................................37
Utrecht Summer School 2017...............................................................................................................................37
University of Western Cape 2017 Short Courses & Online Modules in Pharmaceutical Public Health............37

CARTOON.............................................................................................................................................................38

TIPS & TRICKS......................................................................................................................................................39
Ransomware Now Sold As A Service....................................................................................................................39

IMPRINT.............................................................................................................................................................40
ONLINE RESOURCES

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

‘It's time to act’: A video about climate change and health

http://health.bmz.de/what_we_do/climate_health/its_time_to_act/index.html

How is climate change impacting human health? And how can health systems be strengthened to address these new challenges? This five-minute animated film shows why climate-related adaptation measures are urgently needed in the health sector and explains how they can be planned and implemented.

Fostering leadership for UHC in Francophone Africa

http://www.health.bmz.de/where_we_work/global_regional/Fostering_leadership_for_UHC_in_Francophone_Africa/index.html

Four French-speaking African countries embark on the P4H Leadership for Universal Health Coverage (L4UHC) programme. “Our country has passed a law on Universal Health Coverage - but how do we make UHC a reality?” In a spacious, well-lit room, high-ranking ministry officials, political leaders, civil society representatives and health professionals from Benin, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire and Madagascar are debating this challenge.

This article is also available in French: Promouvoir un leadership pour la CSU en Afrique francophone

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

Community Health Workers as Social Marketers of Injectable Contraceptives: A Case Study from Ethiopia

by Karen Weidert, Amanuel Gessessew, Suzanne Bell et al.
13 pp. 696 kB

http://www.ghspjournal.org/content/5/1/44.full.pdf+html

Volunteer community health workers (CHWs) administered injectable contraceptives to women in the community for a small fee while providing counselling and referrals for other methods. Over nearly 3 years, more than 600 CHWs provided an estimated 15,410 injections. The model has the potential to improve sustainability of community-based distribution
programs by incorporating social marketing principles to partially recover commodity costs and compensate CHWs.

**Intimate partner violence and constraints to reproductive autonomy and reproductive health among women seeking abortion services in Bangladesh**

by Erin Pearson, Kathryn L. Andersen, Kamal Biswas et al.  
*Int J Gynecol Obstet* 2017; 136: 290–297  
8 pp. 720 kB  

Intimate partner violence (IPV) was associated with additional constraints on reproductive autonomy from husbands/partners, in-laws, and religious communities. Seeking induced abortion unaccompanied and using medication abortion could be strategies to access abortion covertly among women experiencing IPV. Ensuring women's reproductive freedom requires addressing IPV and related constraints.

**Access to and Quality of Menstrual Regulation and Postabortion Care in Bangladesh: Evidence from a Survey of Health Facilities, 2014**

by Altaf Hossain, Isaac Maddow-Zimet, Meghan Ingerick et al.  
Guttmacher Institute, 2017  
28 pp. 511 kB  

Policy and programmatic actions are needed to increase availability of and access to Menstrual Regulation (MR) [defined as the “procedure of regulating the menstrual cycle when menstruation is absent for a short duration,”] and treatment for postabortion complications. Strategies include increasing training for providers and disseminating information about the MR program at the community level. In addition, provision of contraceptive counseling and methods for postabortion care and MR patients must be improved, particularly at private-sector facilities.

**The promotion of intra-uterine contraception in low- and middle-income countries: a narrative review**

by John Cleland, Moazzam Ali, Lenka Benova et al.  
Contraception (2017), doi: 10.1016/j.contraception.2017.03.009  
32 pp. 459 kB
The contribution of copper-bearing intrauterine devices (IUDs) to overall contraceptive protection has declined in many countries, despite their well-known advantages. The study was undertaken to review and interpret the experience of interventions to promote use of IUDs in low- and middle-income countries in order to provide strategic guidance for policies and programs. The authors conclude that IUD use can be increased in a variety of ways but that progress is hampered by persistent adverse perceptions by both providers and potential clients. Provider enthusiasm is a key to success.

Moving from legality to reality: how medical abortion methods were introduced with implementation science in Zambia

by Tamara Fetters, Ghazaleh Samandari, Patrick Djemo et al.
Reprod Health (2017) 14: 26 - First Online: 16 February 2017
11 pp. 1.2 MB

Although abortion is legal in Zambia, very few women know they have the right to have an abortion or know where to seek this care. Unsafe abortions have caused unnecessary deaths in Zambia even among women who have the right to a safe and legal abortion. In this national study we used the opportunity to introduce abortion with medication and improve understanding of the law and abortion care in and around 28 health facilities in the country.

What You Need to Know About the Global Gag Rule

Discriminatory and Unequal: Debunking the Fungibility and Fraud Arguments for Trump’s Global Gag Rule. The Trump-Pence Administration and anti-choice Members of Congress have cited the fungibility (the idea that government funds and private funds are interchangeable) of U.S. government funding with foreign organizations’ private funding as a rationale for imposing the Global Gag Rule. This notion is premised on the falsehood that the Global Gag Rule is necessary to prevent U.S. taxpayers’ money from paying for abortions overseas.
Inheriting a sustainable world: Atlas on children’s health and the environment

by Marie-Noël Bruné Drisse and Fiona Goldizen
World Health Organization, 2017
164 pp. 16.2 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/254677/1/9789241511773-eng.pdf?ua=1

This new publication presents the continuing and emerging challenges to children’s environmental health. The new edition is not simply an update from 2004 but a more detailed review; the authors take into account changes in the major environmental hazards to children’s health over the last 13 years, due to increasing urbanization, industrialization, globalization and climate change, as well as efforts in the health sector to reduce children’s environmental exposures. The book seeks to promote the importance of creating sustainable environments and reducing the exposure of children to modifiable environmental hazards. The wide scope of the SDGs offers a framework within which to work and improve the lives of all children.

HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria

Patient-reported barriers and facilitators to antiretroviral adherence in sub-Saharan Africa

by Natasha Croome, Monisha Ahluwalia, Lyndsay D Hughes et al.
13 pp. 458 kB
http://journals.lww.com/aidsonline/Fulltext/2017/04240/Patient_reported_barriers_and_facilitators_to.11.aspx

In the past decade, there has been a shift in simply identifying and reporting rates of nonadherence and an increased focus on identifying and addressing barriers and facilitators to antiretroviral treatment (ART) adherence in low and middle-income countries (LMIC), in particular in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA); therefore, this systematic review is a critical update. The review identifies adult patient-reported barriers and facilitators to ART adherence in SSA from 2005 to 2016 in studies with qualitative and quantitative methodology.

UNAIDS sponsored supplement: Approaches and tools for 2016 country-specific HIV and AIDS estimates

AIDS: April 2017, Volume 31, Supplement 1
http://journals.lww.com/aidsonline/toc/2017/04001

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) publishes estimates of the HIV epidemic every year. For 2016, estimates are available for 160 countries representing 98% of the global population. This special supplement, which details the methods used to produce these estimates,
World Tuberculosis Day 2017

http://www.biomedcentral.com/p/world-tb-day-2017

BioMed Central is pleased to recognize World Tuberculosis Day 2017. The date is commemorated every year to mark Dr. Robert Koch’s 1882 discovery of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacillus that causes tuberculosis (TB). Despite continued progress, tuberculosis causes nearly 1.5 million deaths per year globally, mainly in developing countries. We’ve gathered some of our most impactful research on TB here for your benefit. As the original open access publisher, we are proud to make this research freely available to the scientific community.

World Tuberculosis Day: Calling Attention to TB in Pregnancy

by Kayla McGowan
Women and Health Initiative, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, March 24, 2017

Read online at:
https://www.mhtf.org/2017/03/24/world-tuberculosis-day-calling-attention-to-tb-in-pregnancy/

The causes of maternal death are shifting: Non-obstetric causes - including HIV-related conditions, infectious diseases such as tuberculosis (TB) and other pre-existing medical conditions - account for nearly a third of maternal deaths and a host of maternal newborn health complications. For example, the presence of TB during pregnancy, delivery and postpartum greatly increases the risk of premature birth, low birthweight, intrauterine growth retardation and perinatal death. Since women are most likely to develop TB during their reproductive years, drawing attention to TB in maternal and reproductive health research is critical.

Ethics guidance for the implementation of the End TB strategy

by Ernesto Jaramillo, Andreas Reis, Abha Saxena et al.
World Health Organization, March 2017
80 pp. 1.2 MB
The World Health Organization End TB Strategy is fully aligned with the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Both require due attention to equity, human rights and ethics. In fact, “protecting human rights, ethics and equity” is one of the four key principles of the WHO End TB Strategy. The SDG agenda itself is inspired by a simple motto: “Leave no one behind”. Ensuring that these essential principles guide the implementation of the End TB Strategy is a must, especially when tuberculosis (TB) is rampant among the most vulnerable and marginalized populations everywhere in the world.

**Tuberculosis surveillance and monitoring in Europe, 2017**

by Julien Beauté, Masoud Dara, Pierpaolo de Colombani et al.
WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)
162 pp. 18.3 MB


The number of people developing and dying from tuberculosis (TB) is falling in Europe, but among the most vulnerable - including migrants, prisoners and people who are HIV positive - there have been worrying increases. Figures from this report show new TB cases and deaths in the 53 countries of the WHO’s European region fell each year by 4.3 and 8.5 percent respectively between 2011 and 2015. But new co-infections with TB and HIV together increased by 40 percent from 2011 to 2015, showing that efforts to control the disease need to be far more focused on high risk groups.

**Drug-resistant TB: A Growing Global Health Threat**

By Jon Lomøy and Mark Dybul
Voices, 29 March 2017
Read online at:
https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/blog/2017-03-29-drug-resistant-tb-a-growing-global-health-threat/

Tuberculosis, a disease that has affected the poor for millennia but that has mostly dropped from sight in upper-income countries, kills more than 1.8 million people a year around the world. While global health partners have made great progress toward halting the disease, drug-resistant forms of TB are threatening to undo those gains. Deaths from drug-resistant TB now account for about one-third of all antimicrobial resistance deaths worldwide and the resistant strains are spreading, presenting a potentially catastrophic risk to global health security.
Use of low-dose computed tomography to assess pulmonary tuberculosis among healthcare workers in a tuberculosis hospital

by Wei He, Bu-Dong Chen, Yan Lv et al.
Infectious Diseases of Poverty, 2017; 6:68 - Published: 24 March 2017
10 pp. 2.6 MB


Compared with high-income countries, the TB prevalence among HCWs is higher in low- and middle-income countries. Low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) is becoming more popular due to its superior sensitivity and lower radiation dose. However, there have been no reports about active pulmonary tuberculosis (PTB) among health care workers (HCWs) as assessed with LDCT. The purposes of this study were to examine PTB statuses in HCWs in hospitals specializing in TB treatment and explore the significance of the application of LDCT to these workers. The authors conclude that healthcare workers in tuberculosis hospitals are a high-risk group for active PTB. Yearly LDCT examinations of such high-risk groups are feasible and necessary.

Knowledge, attitudes and practices regarding tuberculosis care among health workers in Southern Mozambique

by Andrés Noé, Rafaela M. Ribeiro, Rui Anselmo et al.
BMC Pulm Med. 2017; 17: 2. - Published online 2017 January 5
7 pp. 532 kB


Tuberculosis (TB) control is more likely to be achieved if the level of knowledge regarding TB is increased among health workers managing high-risk groups. The main objective of the study was to determine the level of knowledge, identify attitudes and assess practices regarding TB care and control among health care workers of the district of Manhiça. The authors conclude that health care worker’s knowledge gaps identified in this study may result in substandard patient care. Specific deficiencies in understanding existed in terms of paediatric TB and Xpert MTB/RIF® testing. The present study provides impetus for tailored TB education among health care workers from a high TB burden rural area in Southern Mozambique.

The epidemiology, pathogenesis, transmission, diagnosis, and management of multidrug-resistant, extensively drug-resistant, and incurable tuberculosis

by Keertan Dheda, Tawanda Gumbo, Gary Maartens et al.
The Lancet Respiratory Medicine Commission
Lancet Respir Med 2017 - Published Online March 23, 2017
70 pp. 8.0 MB
Although tuberculosis control has been effective in some regions of the world, these gains are threatened by the increasing burden of multidrug-resistant (MDR) and extensively drug-resistant (XDR) tuberculosis. XDR tuberculosis has evolved in several tuberculosis-endemic countries to drug-incurable or programmatically incurable tuberculosis (totally drug-resistant tuberculosis). The authors discuss epidemiology and transmission dynamics, including new insights into the fundamental biology of transmission, and they review the utility of newer diagnostic tools, including molecular tests and next-generation whole-genome sequencing, and their potential for clinical effectiveness.

**Treatment of Uncomplicated Malaria among Women of Reproductive Age**

by President’s Malaria Initiative, CDC, MCHIP, MCSP - Publish Date: February 2017
2 pp. 364 kB


The protocol for treating malaria in pregnant women in the first trimester differs from the rest of the adult population. With this in mind, MCSP and the President’s Malaria Initiative developed a two-page job aid to assist service providers in assessing women for pregnancy as well as correctly diagnosing and, if needed, treating them for malaria. Based on WHO guidance, the aid includes a flow-chart on the steps for malaria diagnosis and treatment, as well as information on signs and symptoms of the disease. Medications—categorized by “uncomplicated” and “severe malaria”—are organized by trimester of pregnancy, and additional sources and references are listed.

**Analytical sensitivity of current best-in-class malaria rapid diagnostic tests**

by Alfons Jimenez, Roxanne R. Rees-Channer, Rushini Perera et al.
Malaria Journal, 2017 16:128 - Published: 24 March 2017
9 pp. 993 kB


Rapid diagnostic tests (RDTs) are today the most widely used method for malaria diagnosis and are recommended, alongside microscopy, for the confirmation of suspected cases before the administration of anti-malarial treatment. The diagnostic performance of RDTs, as compared to microscopy or PCR is well described but the actual analytical sensitivity of current best-in-class tests is poorly documented. This value is however a key performance indicator and a benchmark value needed to developed new RDTs of improved sensitivity.
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.
The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Available online: 27 March 2017
23 pp. 2.2 MB
http://www.ajtmh.org/content/journals/10.4269/ajtmh.16-0744?emailalert=true

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.

Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness

Effectiveness of a triple-drug regimen for global elimination of lymphatic filariasis: a modelling study

by Michael A Irvine, Wilma A Stolk, Morgan E Smith et al.
The Lancet Infectious Diseases, Vol. 17, No. 4, pp. 451–458, April 2017
8 pp. 433 kB

Lymphatic filariasis is targeted for elimination as a public health problem by 2020. The principal approach used by current programmes is annual mass drug administration with two pairs of drugs with a good safety profile. However, one dose of a triple-drug regimen (ivermectin, diethylcarbamazine, and albendazole) has been shown to clear the transmissible stage of the helminth completely in treated individuals. Simulation modelling suggests that the triple-drug regimen has potential to accelerate the elimination of lymphatic filariasis if high population coverage of mass drug administration can be achieved and if systematic non-adherence with mass drug administration is low.

Evaluation of a Mobile Phone-Based Microscope for Screening of Schistosoma haematobium Infection in Rural Ghana

by Isaac I. Bogoch, Hatice C. Koydemir, Derek Tseng et al.
The American Journal of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene; Available online: 27 March 2017
7 pp. 962 kB
The authors compared a novel, low-cost mobile phone microscope to a conventional light microscope for the label-free diagnosis of Schistosoma haematobium infections in a rural Ghanaian school setting. The mobile phone microscope had a sensitivity of 72.1% (95% confidence interval [CI]: 56.1–84.2), specificity of 100% (95% CI: 75.9–100), positive predictive value of 100% (95% CI: 86.3–100), and a negative predictive value of 57.1% (95% CI: 37.4–75.0). With its modest sensitivity and high specificity, this handheld and cost-effective mobile phone-based microscope is a stepping-stone toward developing a powerful tool in clinical and public health settings where there is limited access to conventional laboratory diagnostic support.

Controlling schistosomiasis with praziquantel: How much longer without a viable alternative?

The current approach of morbidity control of schistosomiasis, a helminth disease of poverty with considerable public health and socioeconomic impact, is based on preventive chemotherapy with praziquantel. There is a pressing need for new drugs against this disease whose control entirely depends on this single drug that has been widely used over the past 40 years. The authors argue that a broader anthelminthic approach supplementing praziquantel with new antischistosomals targeting different parasite development stages would not only increase efficacy but also reduce the risk for drug resistance.

IFPRI released the 2017 Global Food Policy Report, an evidence-based analysis of the latest developments in food policy across the developing world. With rapid urbanization dramatically shifting demographics in the developing countries in recent years, this year’s report examines how urbanization is changing food systems, health, and development. The report features chapters...
on the importance of investing in rural-urban linkages and value chains; the increasing shift of poverty, food security, and nutrition issues from rural areas to cities; the urban food environment’s influence on diets; and the role of the informal sector in feeding Africa’s urbanites. Also featured are updated data sets and infographics on global hunger, agricultural investment, public expenditures, and more.

**Global Report on Food Crises 2017**

Food Security Information Network (FSIN), March 2017
145 pp. 6.8 MB

This Global Report aims to enhance coordination and decision making through a neutral analysis that informs programming and implementation. The key objective and strength of the report is to establish a consultative and consensus-based process to compile food insecurity analyses from around the world into a global public product. The Report compares and clarifies results of food security analyses conducted by various partners and across geographical areas to provide a clear picture of acute food insecurity situation.

**Sustainable Food Systems: The Role of the City**

by Robert Biel
UCL Press, December 2016
154 pp. 15.7 MB
http://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/1529844/1/Sustainable-Food-Systems.pdf

This book, by a leading expert in urban agriculture, offers a genuine solution to today’s global food crisis. By contributing more to feeding themselves, cities can allow breathing space for the rural sector to convert to more organic sustainable approaches. Drawing on both his academic research and teaching, and 15 years’ experience as a practicing urban farmer, the author brings a unique interdisciplinary approach to this key global issue, creating a dialogue between the physical and social sciences.

**mGAP Intervention Guide - Version 2.0 for mental, neurological and substance use disorders in non-specialized health settings**

by Tarun Dua, Nicolas Clark, Neerja Chowdhary et al.
World Health Organization, 2016
173 pp. 3.5 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/250239/1/9789241549790-1-eng.pdf?ua=1
This update of the 2010 edition is based on new evidence as well as extensive feedback and recommendations from experts in all WHO regions who have used mhGAP-IG Version 1.0. The key updates include: content update in various sections based on new evidence; design changes for enhanced usability; a streamlined and simplified clinical assessment that includes an algorithm for follow-up; inclusion of two new modules - Essential Care and Practice that includes general guidelines and Implementation module to support the proposed interventions by necessary infrastructure and resources; and, revised modules for Psychoses, Child and Adolescent Mental and Behavioural Disorders and Disorders due to Substance Use.

Thirsting for a Future: Water and children in a changing climate

Editors: Tara Dooley, Yasmine Hage, Xinyi Ge
United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), March 2017
80 pp. 5.7 MB
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/UNICEF_Thirsting_for_a_Future_REPORT.pdf

Some 600 million children – or 1 in 4 children worldwide – will be living in areas with extremely limited water resources by 2040, according to this report released on World Water Day (22 March). The report looks at the threats to children’s lives and wellbeing caused by depleted sources of safe water and the ways climate change will intensify these risks in coming years. Children are forced to use unsafe water, which exposes them to potentially deadly diseases like cholera and diarrhoea. Many children in drought-affected areas spend hours every day collecting water, missing out on a chance to go to school. Girls are especially vulnerable to attack during these times.

Diffuse Pollution, Degraded Waters: Emerging Policy Solutions

Policy Highlights
OECD Environment Directorate, March 2017
16 pp. 5.9 MB

OECD countries have struggled to adequately address diffuse water pollution. It is much easier to regulate large, point source industrial and municipal polluters than engage with a large number of farmers and other land-users where variable factors like climate, soil and politics come into play. But the cumulative effects of diffuse water pollution can be devastating for human well-being and ecosystem health. Ultimately, they can undermine sustainable economic growth. Many countries are trying innovative policy responses with some measure of success. However, these approaches need to be replicated, adapted and massively scaled-up if they are to have an effect.
Wastewater: The Untapped Resource

by Richard Connor, Stefan Uhlenbrook, Engin Koncagül et al.
WWAP (United Nations World Water Assessment Programme), March 2017
198 pp. 18.9 MB
http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002471/247153e.pdf

In all but the most highly developed countries, the vast majority of wastewater is released directly to the environment without adequate treatment, with detrimental impacts on human health, economic productivity, the quality of ambient freshwater resources, and ecosystems. In the face of ever-growing demand, wastewater is gaining momentum as a reliable alternative source of water, shifting the paradigm of wastewater management from ‘treatment and disposal’ to ‘reuse, recycle and resource recovery’. In this sense, wastewater is no longer seen as a problem in need of a solution, rather it is part of the solution to challenges that societies are facing today.

Managing hygiene promotion in WASH programmes

by Brian Reed and Jane Bevan
Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC), Loughborough University, 2014
28 pp. 4.1 MB
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/G013-Hygiene-promotion-online.pdf

Effective hygiene promotion is widely believed to be one of the most valuable tools we have to change people’s behaviour, which in turn can protect them from diarrhoeal diseases. It can also be a helpful way to encourage participation and empower communities. Despite the acceptance of its importance, hygiene promotion is often given far less emphasis than traditional water supply and sanitation activities in development settings. This guide is designed to help address this issue.

Obstacles to WASH

by Beatrice Mosello and Mariana Matoso
Water Policy Programme/ Overseas Development Institute, 20th March 2017
Read online at:
http://www.sustainablegoals.org.uk/obstacles-to-wash/

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are essential for both human survival and sustainable development. How can we ensure that everyone has access to these basic necessities? There are seven billion people in the world today. Despite huge progress in extending access to water and sanitation over the last four decades, 2.4 billion still lack access to decent toilets, and 663 million people rely on unsafe drinking water sources. The international community, in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)
6, set out a clear ambition to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for everyone by 2030. We know how much it takes to do it: about three times more than current investment. And we also know about the costs of failure.

Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS): Kenya creates online system to monitor rural sanitation

SciDevNet, 23 March 2017
Read online at:

http://www.scidev.net/global/icts/news/kenya-creates-online-system-monitor-rural-sanitation-1.html

Kenya has launched an online monitoring, evaluation and reporting system to improve capturing data on sanitation and hygiene status, a conference has heard. According to Kenya’s Ministry of Health, the country has open defecation rate of 14 per cent, with countries such as Wajir and Turkana having a rate of 76.7 and 82.2 per cent respectively. The online portal could help coordinate monitoring of water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and enable public health officials in rural areas facilitate rapid acceleration of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) campaign, experts say.


World Meteorological Organization (WMO), March 2017
28 pp. 3.2 MB
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/1189_Statement2016_EN.pdf

The year 2016 made history, with a record global temperature, exceptionally low sea ice, and unabated sea level rise and ocean heat, according to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). Extreme weather and climate conditions have continued into 2017. Because the social and economic impacts of climate change have become so important, WMO partnered with other United Nations organizations for the first time this year to include information on these impacts.

From the ground up: How communities can collaborate to drive local adaptation and influence the national agenda

by Will Bugler and Olivia Palin
Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), March 2017
12 pp. 721 kB
While climate change may be driven by global processes, it is at the local level where the damage caused by climate impacts like hurricanes, storms and floods is felt most acutely. Responses to climate change are inextricably linked to the local context in which they emerge. Caribbean decision-makers increasingly recognise that ‘top-down’ approaches to climate adaptation are insufficient to deliver effective climate resilience-building outcomes. Instead, multi-level governance systems are now seen as best practice for delivering adaptation actions at the local level, especially where small and medium sized communities rely on climate vulnerable sectors such as fishing or tourism.

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

Training Manual: Gender Leadership in Humanitarian Action

by Fiona Gell, Eliza Hilton, Tess Dico-Young
European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) and Oxfam, March 2017
312 pp. 1.6 MB


The purpose of this training manual is to support the institutionalization of gender equality and women’s rights in all humanitarian action. It was developed by Oxfam to support the implementation of the project Institutionalizing Gender in Emergencies: Bridging Policy and Practice in the Humanitarian System, supported by the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO) during 2015 to 2017. The aim of this initial training is to develop a critical mass of committed gender leaders – some might call these ‘change agents’ or ‘change-makers’ – who can together influence changes in policy and practice at different levels across the humanitarian system.

Health Promotion at School: Pedagogical Aspects and Practical Implications

by Elke Knisel, Konrad Kleiner, Michal Bronikowski et al.
Published by De Gruyter Open Ltd, Warsaw/ Berlin, 2017
Download chapter by chapter (152 pp) at:
https://www.degruyter.com/viewbooktoc/product/487679

There is quite a consensus that schools are the most appropriate setting to promote health. Childhood and adolescence constitute key stages for learning and adopting a health-related and active lifestyle which includes physical activity and sports. The book describes a new approach to enhance students’ health awareness through experimental learning settings in P.E. class, cross-subject teaching, and project work. Teaching health topics requires a pedagogical and didactical framework based on the concept of health literacy and interdisciplinary research discussed
by the authors. Teaching examples to improve students’ health knowledge, health competencies and skills as well as health behaviour and habits at school implicates a new teaching structure presented in the book.

Health System Governance, Health Workforce and Health Information Systems

Improving Employment and working conditions in health services

by Christiane Wiskow, Odile Frank, Devora Levakova et al.
International Labour Organization (ILO), 2017
52 pp. 811 kB


This report has been prepared by the International Labour Office as a basis for discussions at the Tripartite Meeting on Improving Employment and Working Conditions in Health Services, to be held from 24 to 28 April 2017 in Geneva. It provides an overview on recent developments in the health sector and reviews challenges and opportunities for enhancing decent work in health services.

Factors influencing recruitment and retention of healthcare workers in rural and remote areas in developed and developing countries: an overview

by Gisèle Irène Claudine Mbemba, Marie-Pierre Gagnon, Louise Hamelin-Brabant
Journal of Public Health in Africa 2016; Volume 7:565
6 pp. 648 kB


Shortage of healthcare workers in rural and remote areas remains a growing concern both in developed and developing countries. This review aims to synthesize the significant factors impacting healthcare professionals’ recruitment and retention in rural and remote areas, and to identify those relevant for developing countries. While the main factors influencing recruitment and retention have been largely explored in the literature, the evidence on strategies to reduce the shortage of healthcare workers in rural area, particularly in developing countries, is low. Further research in this field is needed.

Retention and sustainability of community-based health volunteers’ activities: A qualitative study in rural Northern Ghana

by Samuel Chatio and Patricia Akweongo
PLoS ONE 12(3): e0174002 - Published: March 15, 2017
12 pp. 752 kB
The shortage of formal health workers has led to the utilization of Community-Based Health Volunteers (CBHV) to provide health care services to people especially in rural and neglected communities. Community-based health volunteers have been effective partners in health care delivery at the community level for many years. The challenge is how to retain these volunteers and also sustain their activities. This study explored factors affecting retention and sustainability of community-based health volunteers’ activities in a rural setting in Northern Ghana. The authors conclude that providing means of transport and non-monetary incentives would help to retain community-based health volunteers and also sustain their activities at the community level.

Institutional Repository LinkOut: A New Full Text Access Feature in PubMed

by Hilda Bastian and Y. Kathy Kwan
Read online at:

PubMed users can now see the icon that links to the full text deposited at an open access institutional repository (IR) using LinkOut. The LinkOut service allows you to link to full text, library holdings, and other relevant external resources from PubMed and other NCBI databases.

Internet-Delivered Health Interventions that Work: Systematic Review of Meta-Analyses and Evaluation of Website Availability

by Mary AM Rogers, Kelsey Lemmen, Rachel Kramer et al.
Journal of Medical Internet Research, Vol 19, No 3 (2017) - Published on 24 March 2017
28 pp. 901 kB

Due to easy access and low cost, Internet-delivered therapies offer an attractive alternative to improving health. Although numerous websites contain health-related information, finding evidence-based programs (as demonstrated through randomized controlled trials, RCTs) can be challenging. The authors conclude that a wide range of evidence-based Internet programs are currently available for health-related behaviours, as well as disease prevention and treatment. However, the majority of Internet-delivered health interventions found to be efficacious in RCTs do not have websites for general use. Increased efforts to provide mechanisms to host “interventions that work” on the Web and to assist the public in locating these sites are necessary.
Senegal’s Journey Toward an eHealth Strategy: Highlights from the Development Process

by Judith Nguimfack Tsague, David Potenziani, Trinity Zan et al.
Knowledge for Health (K4Health) Project, IntraHealth International, September, 2016
24 pp. 2.2 MB

In 2014, the Senegal Ministry of Health and Social Action (MOHSA) began the development of a national eHealth strategy. This report documents the process of developing the Senegal eHealth Strategic Plan; compares the process to the steps in the WHO/ITU eHealth Strategy Toolkit; and shares successes and challenges encountered during the process, to inform the work of those involved in similar efforts.

Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies

WHO Drug Information Vol. 31, No. 1, 2017

World Health Organization
60 pp. 692 kB
http://www.who.int/entity/medicines/publications/druginformation/issues/WHO_DI_31-1.pdf?ua=1

The issue includes contributions on the following topics:

Collaboration:
• A global network of national control laboratories (NCLs) involved in testing of WHO-prequalified vaccines was formed at a meeting in the Netherlands in September 2016.

Norms and standards:
• This article reviews the history and outcomes of 70 years of WHO standard-setting work on medicines quality.

Vaccine control:
• The feasibility of a serological potency assay for rabies vaccines for human use was studied to identify a potential alternative to the currently used NIH mouse protection test, which is demanding to perform and causes suffering to experimental animals.

Improving Access to and Appropriate Use of Medicines for Mental Disorders

by Corrado Barbui, Tarun Dua, Kavitha Kolappa et al.
World Health Organization and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, 2017
96 pp. 723 kB
Examples from different countries are used throughout this report to illustrate some of the key issues, problems and solutions in relation to access to medicines for mental disorders. The present document attempts to provide simple, adequate and evidence-based information to policy-makers, public health professionals and prescribers, especially in low- and middle-income countries, to improve access to and appropriate use of medicines for mental disorders. It is hoped that use of this thematic paper will enhance the knowledge and competence of those health professionals who are at the forefront of mental health service organization and delivery of care in resource-poor health systems.

**Antimicrobial resistance in the WHO African region: current status and roadmap for action**

by S.Y. Essack, A.T. Desta, R.E. Abotsi et al.


6 pp. 168 kB


The high burden of communicable diseases in African countries engenders extensive antimicrobial use and subsequent resistance with substantial health, financial and societal implications. A regional situational analysis to identify scalable good practices within African, resource-constrained country contexts under the auspices of WHO-AFRO is a necessary initial step towards the development of national and regional action plans in concert with incremental progress towards achieving the objectives of the policy package and global action plan.

**Fentanyl and its analogues - 50 years on**


16 pp. 1.8 MB


The Global SMART Update is designed to provide regular brief reports on emerging patterns and trends of the global synthetic drug situation. The current issue sheds light on the rapidly unfolding public health threat posed by extremely potent synthetic opioids, fentanyl and its analogues. Key research insights delineate a complex market, whereby the sale of illicit opioids is entwined with the legitimate and underground supply of opioid pharmaceuticals, exposing users to the ruthless criminal practice of counterfeiting prescription medications. The report calls for special attention to the global developments in clandestine opioid manufacturing and trafficking, and associated international concerns.
Impact of introduction of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria on antibiotic prescribing: analysis of observational and randomised studies in public and private healthcare settings

by Heidi Hopkins, Katia J Bruvoort, Matthew E Cairns et al.
BMJ 2017; 356 - Published 29 March 2017
10 pp. 495 kB
http://www.bmj.com/content/bmj/356/bmj.j1054.full.pdf

The objective of the study was to examine the impact of use of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria on prescribing of antimicrobials, specifically antibiotics, for acute febrile illness in Africa and Asia. The authors conclude that introduction of rapid diagnostic tests for malaria to reduce unnecessary use of antimalarials - a beneficial public health outcome - could drive up untargeted use of antibiotics. It is often assumed that better disease specific diagnostics will reduce antimicrobial overuse, but they might simply shift it from one antimicrobial class to another. Current global implementation of malaria testing might increase untargeted antibiotic use and must be examined.

Efficacy of a Low-Cost, Heat-Stable Oral Rotavirus Vaccine in Niger

by Sheila Isanaka, Ousmane Guindo, Celine Langendorf et al.
10 pp. 302 kB

Each year, rotavirus gastroenteritis is responsible for about 37% of deaths from diarrhea among children younger than 5 years of age worldwide, with a disproportionate effect in sub-Saharan Africa. The authors conducted a randomized, placebo-controlled trial in Niger to evaluate the efficacy of a live, oral bovine rotavirus pentavalent vaccine (BRV-PV, Serum Institute of India) to prevent severe rotavirus gastroenteritis. They conclude that three doses of BRV-PV, had an efficacy of 66.7% against severe rotavirus gastroenteritis among infants in Niger.

Can science rob snakes of their deadliest weapon?

by Usha Lee McFarling
STAT, March 21, 2017
Read online at:
https://www.statnews.com/2017/03/21/snakebite-antivenom-biotech/

Worldwide, snakebites kill 100,000 people a year and maim or cripple 400,000, mostly in India, Southeast Asia and sub-Saharan Africa. Now, chemists at University of California, Irvine, have created a snake venom-neutralizing compound that could be developed into a universal antidote. Other scientists are using technologies such as nanoparticles and antibodies to develop new treatments. Unfortunately, these therapies are decades away from readiness. Though antivenoms do exist, they usually have serious side effects and are unavailable or unaffordable for the poor and people in rural areas.
areas. Several pharmaceutical giants have recently dropped antivenoms because the drugs have proven unprofitable.

2016 Midterm Review of the Global Vaccine Action Plan

At the midpoint of the Global Vaccine Action Plan, or GVAP (2012–2020), the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) remains gravely concerned that progress toward the goals to eradicate polio, eliminate measles and rubella, eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, and increase equitable access to lifesaving vaccines is too slow. Despite improvements in individual countries and a strong global rate of new vaccine introduction, global average immunization coverage has increased by only 1% since 2010. The next four years present unprecedented opportunities for countries to leverage the attention and support that immunization receives and apply it for the benefit of people everywhere.

Management and Quality of Health Services and Facilities

Quality of care in contraceptive information and services, based on human rights standards: A checklist for health care providers

This checklist covers five areas of competence needed by health care providers to provide quality of care in contraceptive information and services including: respecting users’ privacy and guaranteeing confidentiality, choice, accessible and acceptable services, involvement of users in improving services and fostering continuity of care and follow-up.

Can We Expect Results-Based Financing to Improve Quality of Care?

Editorial
3 pp. 174 kB
Results-based financing (RBF) schemes in health care are premised on the notion that “paying for results” rather than for inputs is more likely to improve performance. But getting from that attractive hypothesis to program efforts that improve quality of care and outcomes at population scale—in the real world—is far from simple.

Adapting What Works In Primary Care: A Getting Started Resource for Program Managers

by Allison Ettenger and Christina Synowiec
The Center for Health Market Innovations (CHMI), 2016
17 pp. 5.8 MB

Program managers can use the resource guide to examine specific challenges in improving quality and access in primary care. The resource guide shares actionable tips to get started on a variety of ‘active ingredients,’ including:

- Task shifting for quality improvement; helping address gaps in care delivery
- Standardizing care delivery with operational tools; providing protocols and data dashboards to audit clinical processes
- Logistics technologies to improve access; reducing supply chain costs of medicines through better operations

Programs in the CHMI network have demonstrated that innovative ideas can be adapted across geographic and cultural borders. Thanks to the participating organizations’ commitment to transparency and collaboration, lessons learned in primary care delivery over years of testing and adaptation can be shared widely through CHMI and other channels.

“Medspeak” can shut down effective communication with patients

by Kevin B. O’Reilly
American Medical Association (AMA) Wire, March 13, 2017
Read online at:
https://wire.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/medspeak-can-shut-down-effective-communication-patients

The 56-year-old inpatient is scared and worried. His physician has told him the swelling in his right calf that brought him to the hospital may be caused by an “agent” or “pathogen,” but he is confused. An “agent” sounds like a person, and a “pathogen” sounds like “psychopath.” When the physician returns with the diagnosis, cellulitis, and says it is an “inflammation of the skin and subcutaneous tissues,” the patient is further confused and flummoxed about deciding whether to stay in the hospital for antibiotic treatment or receive a prescription and rest at home. This kind of “medspeak” can get in the way of patients’ sharing decision-making with their physicians and should be avoided. There are some evidence-based methods that help close critical communication gaps.
The Role of Universal Health Literacy Precautions in Minimizing “Medspeak” and Promoting Shared Decision Making

by Lara Killian and Margo Coletti
8 pp. 71 kB

Shared decision making (SDM), a collaborative process whereby patients and professionals make health care decisions together, is a cornerstone of ethical patient care. The patient-clinician communication necessary to achieve SDM depends on many factors, not the least of which is a shared language (sometimes with the aid of a medical interpreter). However, even when a patient and clinician are speaking the same mother tongue, the use of medical jargon can pose a large and unnecessary barrier. This article discusses how health care professionals can use “universal health literacy precautions” as a legal, practical, and ethical means to enhance SDM and improve health care outcomes.

Monitoring and evaluating digital health interventions: A practical guide to conducting research and assessment

by Smisha Agarwal, Alain Labrique, Amnesty LeFevre et al.
World Health Organization, 2016
144 pp. 3.3 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/252183/1/9789241511766-eng.pdf

This resource provides step-wise guidance to improve the quality and value of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) efforts in the context of digital health interventions, also commonly referred to as mHealth or eHealth interventions. This Guide is intended for implementers and researchers of digital health activities, as well as policy-makers seeking to understand the various stages and opportunities for systematically monitoring implementation fidelity and for evaluating the impact of digital health interventions.

Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection

Financing of Universal Health Coverage and Family Planning: A Multi-Regional Landscape Study and Analysis of Select West African Countries

by Jenna Wright, Karishmah Bhuwanee, Ffyona Patel et al.
United States Agency for International Development (USAID), January 2017
146 pp. 3.8 MB
https://www.hfgproject.org/?download=18026

Due to growing interests in government spending on health care and promoting...
financial protection for households, the USAID and the Health Finance and Governance Project have provided a report that presents observed trends and lessons learned from a health financing landscape study of fifteen countries. Also reviewed were seven countries at various stages of achieving UHC to draw lessons learned and inform potential strategies: Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Nigeria, and South Africa (“reference countries”).

**Health Systems & Reform: Special Issue on Results-Based Financing (RBF)**

http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/khsr20/current

Over the last 15 years, a growing number of low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) have adopted Results-Based Financing (RBF) approaches for their health sectors. This special issue presents key findings from the research program “Taking Results-Based Financing from Scheme to System.” The issue includes four case studies on RBF in LMICs, and three cross-cutting articles - one on reframing RBF and two on scaling RBF up from projects and schemes to its integration into national health systems.

**Health Economics, Policy and Law Special Issue: Towards a Global Framework for Health Financing**

Health Economics, Policy and Law, Vol. 12, Issue 2, April 2017

https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/health-economics-policy-and-law/latest-issue

Universal health coverage and healthy lives for all are now widely shared goals and central to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Despite significant progress over the last decades, the world is still far from reaching these goals. Billions of people lack basic coverage of health services, live with unnecessary pain and disability, or have their lives cut short by avoidable or treatable conditions. It is clear that today’s global and national arrangements for health financing need to change, and this is a multifaceted endeavour. It is about domestic financing of health systems, joint financing of global public goods and external financing of health systems.

**Indicators to measure social protection performance: implications for European Commission programming**

by Anna McCord, Rebecca Holmes and Luke Harman

European Commission, Directorate-General for Development and Cooperation, March 2017

88 pp. 1.2 MB

https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/file/32522/download?token=w5yerfsC
This concept paper was produced for the European Commission as part of the 'Tools and Methods' series. It critically assesses social protection indicators, particularly in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While the paper is aimed at European Commission staff, it provides useful guidance on the selection and use of social protection indicators for staff from wider agencies. The paper provides guidance on the selection and use of social protection indicators and outlines how the European Commission can contribute to the global debate on social protection indicators for the SDGs.

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

**Ageing and the city: Making urban spaces work for older people**

by Siôn Eryl Jones, Kathryn O’Neill, Jorge Peñaloza
HelpAge International, 2016
28 pp. 923 kB


Focusing on low- and middle-income countries, this report aims to stimulate discussion about some of the actions that governments and city authorities can take to build truly inclusive cities. It draws on the programme experience of the HelpAge International network across a range of settings, including in Kiev (Ukraine), Beirut (Lebanon), Bogotá (Colombia) and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). The research process involved a literature review, engagement with a range of experts and a series of focus group discussions with older women and men in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Mexico City (Mexico), Sukkur and Peshawar (Pakistan).

**Strengthening the Workforce to Support Community Living and Participation for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities**

Proceedings of a Workshop
Joe Alper and Sarah Domnitz, Rapporteurs
Forum on Aging, Disability, and Independence, 2017
115 pp. 1.0 MB

https://download.nap.edu/cart/download.cgi?record_id=23656

As the demographics of the United States shift toward a population that is made up of an increasing percentage of older adults and people with disabilities, the workforce that supports and enables these individuals is also shifting to meet the demands of this population. For many older adults and people with disabilities, their priorities include maximizing their independence, living in their own homes, and participating in their communities. In order to meet this population’s demands, the workforce is adapting by modifying its training, by determining how to coordinate among the range of different professionals who might play a role in supporting any one older adult or individual with disabilities, and by identifying the ways in which technology might be helpful.
Dementia and aging populations - A global priority for contextualized research and health policy

by Carol Brayne and Bruce Miller

4 pp. 802 kB

http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002275&type=printable

Current evidence suggests substantial increases in dementia numbers across the world, although there is evidence in some countries of age for age reductions in both prevalence and incidence across time. We know that a generalized phenomenon of population aging is occurring across the globe, and that in low- and middle-income countries, many of the diseases associated with affluence are rising in incidence. These population changes do not affect all people equally. In particular, people who are disadvantaged socioeconomically have lives that are shorter than those of richer population groups and are even so at higher risk for dementia — such groups have not, to date, been well served by the major investments in dementia research.

Dementia in low-income and middle-income countries: Different realities mandate tailored solutions

by Cleusa Pinheiro Ferri and K. S. Jacob

4 pp. 290 kB

http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article/file?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002271&type=printable

The ageing of populations is the most significant social transformation of the 21st century and has highlighted the importance of age-related conditions such as dementia, which has been recognised across regions, countries, and cultures. The number of people living with dementia has been increasing and is estimated to reach 75 million worldwide by 2030, with the majority of these individuals living in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs). Dementia is often seen as part of the ageing process, and even when recognized, there still remain problems related to stigma, lack of resources for the adequate care of people with dementia (PWD), variations in the way the condition is assessed and perceived, and how it is addressed in noncommunicable disease (NCD) policies and prevention strategies.

Social Transfers

Global Framework for Action: A Consolidated Summary of Commitments for Cash Transfer Programming

The Cash Learning Partnership, February 2017
2 pp 62 kB

This framework provides a consolidated summary of the major commitments and recommendations made to improve cash transfer programming in humanitarian response during 2015 and 2016. It aggregates the core content of: the Grand Bargain, ECHO’s 10 Principles, the High Level Panel report, the Strategic Note on Cash Transfers and the Agenda for Cash. It is neutral across high level policy questions about approaches to cash transfer programming. The framework is designed to enable a consistent approach to implementing commitments and monitoring progress.

Inclusion of People with Disabilities

Meeting Report - Rehabilitation 2030: A Call for Action

World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters, February 6–7 2017
62 pp. 2.3 MB
http://www.who.int/disabilities/care/Rehab2030MeetingReport.pdf?ua=1

With the rising prevalence of noncommunicable diseases and injuries and the ageing population, there is a substantial and ever-increasing unmet need for rehabilitation. In many parts of the world, however, the capacity to provide rehabilitation is limited or non-existent and fails to adequately address the needs of the population. Bringing stakeholders together in the “Rehabilitation 2030: A Call for Action” meeting provided an invaluable opportunity for discussing the strategic direction for coordinated action and establishing joint commitments to raise the profile of rehabilitation as a health strategy relevant to the whole population, across the lifespan and across the continuum of care.

Prevalence of HIV infection among people with disabilities: a population-based observational study in Yaoundé, Cameroon (HandiVIH)

by Pierre De Beaudrap, Gervais Beninguisse, Estelle Pasquier et al.
The Lancet HIV, Vol. 4, No. 4, e161–e168, April 2017
8 pp. 517 kB
http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lanhiv/PIIS2352-3018(16)30209-0.pdf

In resource-limited settings, people with disabilities have been left behind in the response to HIV. In the HandiVIH study, the authors estimate and compare HIV prevalence and associated risk factors between people with and without disabilities. They conclude that the higher prevalence of HIV infection in people with disabilities than people without disabilities reflects a higher exposure to HIV infection as well as the presence of disability-associated HIV infection. The susceptibility of people with disabilities to HIV infection seems to be shaped by social and environmental factors.
‘You must carry your wheelchair’ – barriers to accessing healthcare in a South African rural area

by Richard Vergunst, Leslie Swartz, Gubela Mji et al.
Global Health Action, Vol. 8, 2015, Issue 1
9 pp. 654 kB
http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.3402/gha.v8i29003?needAccess=true

There is international evidence that people with disabilities face barriers when accessing primary healthcare services and that there is inadequate information about effective interventions that work to improve the lives of people with disabilities, especially in low-income and middle-income countries. Poor rural residents generally experience barriers to accessing primary healthcare, and these problems are further exacerbated for people with disabilities. It is suggested that although there are practical barriers that need to be addressed, attitudinal barriers could potentially be addressed more easily and cost effectively.

Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation

The U.S. Government Engagement in Global Health: A Primer

The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, January 2017
44 pp. 1.1 MB

The U.S. government is the largest funder and implementer of global health programs worldwide, although U.S. funding for global health has plateaued in recent years in the wake of the financial crisis and continuing fiscal constraint. This primer provides basic information about global health and U.S. government’s response thus far. Although this document focuses primarily on the U.S. government, it is important to acknowledge the role played by other countries, multilateral organizations, and private sector actors such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations, corporations, and others, in the global health response.

Where We Fall Down: Tensions in Teaching Social Medicine and Global Health

by Amy Finnegan, Michelle Morse, Marisa Nadas et al.
Annals of Global Health (2017) - Published online: March 29, 2017
23 pp. 541 kB
http://www.annalsofglobalhealth.org/article/S2214-9996(17)30595-7/pdf

As global health interest has risen, so too has the relevance of education on the social determinants of health and health equity. Social medicine offers a particular-
ly salient framework for educating on the social determinants of health, health disparities, and health equity. SocMed and EqualHealth, two unique but related organizations, offer annual global health courses in Uganda, Haiti, and the U.S., which train students to understand and respond to the social determinants of health through praxis, self-reflection and self-awareness, and building collaborative partnerships across difference.

Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity

Editors James N. Weinstein, Amy Geller, Yamrot Negussie et al.
Committee on Community-Based Solutions to Promote Health Equity in the United States, The National Academies Press, 2017
583 pp. 16.5 MB
https://download.nap.edu/coll/download.cgi?record_id=24624

In the United States, some populations suffer from far greater disparities in health than others. Those disparities are caused not only by fundamental differences in health status across segments of the population, but also because of inequities in factors that impact health status, so-called determinants of health. The book seeks to delineate the causes of and the solutions to health inequities in the United States. This report focuses on what communities can do to promote health equity, what actions are needed by the many and varied stakeholders that are part of communities or support them, as well as the root causes and structural barriers that need to be overcome.

Trade and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): How Can Trade in Education Services Contribute to the SDGs?

by Aik Hoe Lim, Pamela Apaza, and Alin Horj
Asian Development Bank Institute, March 2017
34 pp. 328 kB

While trade can greatly contribute to providing more educational opportunities in the development world, its potential has not been fully exploited so far. The authors examine how international trade can help increase supply of and investment in higher education, thereby enhancing access and quality in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Global Trends: Challenges and Opportunities in the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals

by Esuna Dugarova and Nergis Gülisan
101 pp. 2.2 MB
http://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpAuxPages)/1B970CE3C63126F2C12580E400378BBC/ file/Global%20Trends_UNDP%20and%20UNRISD_FINAL.pdf

This joint UNDP-UNRISD report reviews recent trends in six areas that are fundamentally important to achieving the 2030 Agenda. These six “mega-trends” relate to (i) poverty and inequalities, (ii) demography, (iii) environmental degradation and climate change, (iv) shocks and crises, (v) development cooperation and financing for development, and (vi) technological innovation. The report explores whether these trends are having positive or negative effects on development and discusses policy implications for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Human Development Report 2016: Human Development for Everyone

by Selim Jahan, Eva Jespersen, Shantanu Mukherjee et al.
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), March 2017
286 pp. 2.8 MB

The report finds that although average human development improved significantly across all regions from 1990 to 2015, one in three people worldwide continue to live in low levels of human development as measured by the Human Development Index (HDI). The HDI is a summary measure of average achievement in key dimensions of human development: having a long and healthy life, being knowledgeable, and enjoying a decent standard of living. Despite improvements in sub-Saharan Africa over the past two decades, almost 60 percent of people still experience deprivations in these three areas. Around a third of children under the age of five are malnourished and affected by stunting. Over 35 percent of adults are illiterate. Some 70 percent of working adults earn less than US$ 3.10 per day.

Gates Foundation’s rose-colored world view not supported by evidence

by Martin Kirk and Jason Hickel
Humanosphere, 20 March 2017
Read online at:
The annual public letter from Bill and Melinda Gates has become a much-celebrated event in the global development calendar. But lost in the excitement around this year’s letter is the fact that it uses 6,000 words to paint a picture that is so selective in its use of facts that it amounts to little more than propaganda for a failing aid and development industry, and indeed a failing ideology. The couple selected a handful of positive global trends and claimed them all for the foundation. They do not distinguish the achievements of rich philanthropists and donor agencies from the achievements of all the governments, U.N. bodies, multilateral institutions, businesses and social movements that are devoted to global development. More importantly, they fail to offer a single critical reflection on the work they have done.

**AI for social good: How artificial intelligence can boost sustainable development**

Artificial intelligence (AI) has finally arrived, and is quickly becoming a key part of our everyday lives. AI is already incorporated in many products — from Google’s search and translation to Alibaba’s real-time traffic predictions to Tesla’s self-driving cars. It is increasingly becoming key to tech industry growth as huge amounts of data generated by Internet of Things (IoT) applications will rely on AI analytics to realize their full potential. It is hoped this collection of thought leadership and insight from some of AI’s top minds will help frame the important issues, so that together we can unlock the great potential of AI technology to improve lives.

**Start Fund Alerts Dashboard**

Start Network has launched a new online platform that will allow its members, donors and the public to monitor humanitarian alerts as they happen, follow how money is spent and see how many people have been helped. Start Network’s innovative portal, made public for the first time today, means that every aid agency project supported by the Start Fund in crises around the world can be viewed and its outcome evaluated by anyone who visits the website.
Local aid agencies: still waiting for a bigger share of the funding cake

by Louise Redvers

IRIN, 27 March 2017

Read online at:


Donors and UN agencies who agreed to provide at least one quarter of humanitarian aid funding "as directly as possible" to local NGOs are struggling to deliver on their pledge. Nearly one year after the commitment made at the World Humanitarian Summit in May 2016, signatories of the so-called Grand Bargain, a package of reforms to emergency aid delivery and financing, have yet to agree on three key points: the definition of "local", what should be counted in the 25 percent, and how direct is "directly".

Miscellaneous

World Happiness Report 2017

Editors: John Helliwell, Richard Layard, Jeffrey Sachs et al.
Sustainable Development Solutions Network, March 2017
188 pp. 5.0 MB


Norwegians are, on average, the happiest people in the world, according to the United Nations report released to mark the UN's International Day of Happiness, 20 March. Increasingly, happiness is considered to be the proper measure of social progress and the goal of public policy. In June 2016 the OECD committed itself "to redefine the growth narrative to put people's well-being at the center of governments' efforts". Norway has jumped from 4th place in 2016 to 1st place this year, followed by Denmark, Iceland and Switzerland in a tightly packed bunch. All of the top four countries rank highly on all the main factors found to support happiness: caring, freedom, generosity, honesty, health, income and good governance.

Journal of Public Health in Africa

Editor-in-Chief: Vittorio Colizzi, Cameroon

http://www.publichealthinafrica.org/index.php/jphia

The Open Access Journal of Public Health in Africa (JPHIA) is a peer-reviewed, electronic journal that focuses on health issues in the African continent. The journal editors seek high quality original articles on public health related issues, reviews, comments and more. The aim of the journal is to move public health dis-
course from the background to the forefront. The success of Africa’s struggle against disease depends on public health approaches. This journal is available in PubMed, PubMedCentral, Scopus, DOAJ and ESCI.

**Eurohealth: Harnessing Big Data for Health**

Quarterly of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, Vol.23, No.1, 2017
32 pp. 4.1 MB


There is a growing awareness that harnessing ‘big data’, if done properly, could transform both the quality of health care for patients and how health systems perform. However, processes that can link the content of large and diverse health-related datasets from multiple sources in ways that achieve these goals without compromising privacy or other ethical concerns are only in their infancy.

**CONFERENCES & TRAINING**

**Utrecht Summer School 2017**

This summer, the Division of Pharmacoepidemiology and Clinical Pharmacology at Utrecht University, the Netherlands, offers you again three challenging international summer courses:

- 3-7 July 2017 - Pharmacoepidemiology & Drug safety
- 10-14 July 2017 - Pharmaceutical Policy Analysis (WHO CC for Pharmaceutical Policy and Regulation)
- 17-21 July 2017 - Pharmacoeconomics

More detailed information can be found on the summer school website
http://www.utrechtsummerschool.nl

**University of Western Cape 2017 Short Courses & Online Modules in Pharmaceutical Public Health**

Short Courses and fully accredited Online/Distance Learning Modules will be offered at the School of Public Health, University of the Western Cape, South Africa, in collaboration with the School of Pharmacy, Extraordinary Professor Richard Laing and colleagues from Western Cape Provincial Department of Health, and the national Department of Health.

Target group: Pharmacists and other healthcare and logistics professionals from government, NGO and private sectors working at national, district or facility level
and involved in supply chain, rational use and other areas of medicines management. Limited bursaries will be available.

Brochure and Application Form:

CARTOON

“I think there’s more to cyber security than hiding your laptop under the bed.”

Source: worldstart.com
**TIPS & TRICKS**

**Ransomware Now Sold As A Service**

Ransomware is computer malware that installs covertly on a victim's device (e.g., computer, smartphone, wearable device) and that stops you from using your device. It holds your PC or files for "ransom".

You have heard of software like Microsoft Office and Photoshop being sold as a service, now the creators of ransomware are getting in on the action, offering customizable ransomware as a service to hackers on the dark web.

Would-be hackers who want to spread the malware sign up at the creator’s website and promise to give 30% of what they earn from the ransomware back to the developers.

Crooks have to connect a Bitcoin virtual currency account to the Ransomware service and specify how much they want victims to pay to unlock their files. Then they can download the needed files to attack unsuspecting users. They will even collect the ransom money for you and forward your cut on to your account.

That means you don't necessarily need any tech skills to conduct a malware scam besides attaching the file to an email.

What does that mean to ordinary users? It means that you can expect ransomware to become even more prevalent. Keep your eyes open for suspicious links and attachments!