Dear colleagues,

many of you are familiar with drug stock-outs in low income countries, and with the complex reasons behind them. This investigation report of the Global Fund’s Office of the Inspector General looks into the pervasive theft of GF- and USAID-funded antimalarial medication in Malawi and presents the “I speak out now!”-campaign which the Global Fund has mounted to address fraud and abuse. A must read, we think, and worth further discussion.

Over the past 2 years, more than 150 German libraries, universities, and research institutes have formed a united front for open access to research findings, trying to force academic publishers into a new way of doing business. If they get their way, the paywall that surrounds most research papers will soon fall. This is a bold push - make sure not to miss it!

Download the full News Briefing to get an overview of many more recent interesting and relevant publications.

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

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

Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage: An Updated Review of U.S. Policies and Programs and Their Impact

by John S. Santelli, Leslie M. Kantor, Stephanie A. Grilo et al.
8 pp. 422 kB

Although abstinence is theoretically effective, in actual practice, intentions to abstain from sexual activity often fail. Given a rising age at first marriage around the world, a rapidly declining percentage of young people remain abstinent until marriage. Promotion of abstinence-only-until-marriage (AOUM) policies by the U.S. government has undermined sexuality education in the United States and in U.S. foreign aid programs. The weight of scientific evidence finds that AOUM programs are not effective in delaying initiation of sexual intercourse or changing other sexual risk behaviours. Young people need access to accurate and comprehensive sexual health information to protect their health and lives.

Humanitarian Workplaces Free from Sexual Violence: The First Steps and a Call to Action

by Megan Nobert, Alessandra Carminati, Angelica Zundel et al.
Report the Abuse (RTA), 21 August 2017
16 pp. 1.1 MB

Sexual violence - in and out of conflict settings - is a global phenomenon disproportionately affecting women and girls worldwide. Current data suggest that 1 in 3 women will experience sexual violence in their lifetime. While it has only recently begun to be openly discussed, sexual violence within and against the humanitarian community is not a new or emerging problem. Report the Abuse’s (RTA) survey data suggests that 87% of humanitarian aid workers are reporting they know of a colleague who has experienced sexual violence in the course of their work; 72% of those reporting are survivors themselves.
Barriers and enablers of kangaroo mother care implementation from a health systems perspective: a systematic review

by Grace Chan, Ilana Bergelson, Emily R. Smith et al.
Health Policy and Planning - Published: 24 August 2017
10 pp. 242 kB

Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) is an evidence-based intervention that reduces neonatal morbidity and mortality. However, adoption among health systems has varied. Understanding the interaction between health system functions - leadership, financing, healthcare workers (HCWs), technologies, information and research, and service delivery - and KMC is essential to understanding KMC adoption. The authors present a systematic review of the barriers and enablers of KMC implementation from the perspective of health systems, with a focus on HCWs and health facilities.

Training of community health workers: Cervical cancer screening and management of cervical pre-cancers

by Lakhbir Dhaliwal, Vanita Suri, Reshmi Bagga et al.
World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, August, 2017
92 pp. 12.1 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/258746/1/9789290225515-eng.pdf

The training manual is designed to assist in building capacity of community health workers (CHWs) in educating women and community members on relevant aspects of cervical cancer prevention. The manual aims to facilitate improvement in communication skills of CHWs for promoting uptake of cervical cancer screening services in the community. The primary intention of this manual is to assist CHWs in spreading community awareness on cervical cancer prevention and establishing linkage between the community and available screening services.

Implementing the WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist: lessons from a global collaboration

BMJ Global Health
by WRG Perry, S Bagheri Nejad, K Tuomisto et al.
BMJ Global Health, 2017;2:e000241 - Published 19 August 2017
8 pp. 407 kB
http://gh.bmj.com/content/bmjgh/2/3/e000241.full.pdf

The WHO Safe Childbirth Checklist (SCC) was developed to ensure the delivery of essential maternal and perinatal care practices around the time of childbirth. A research collaboration was subsequently established to explore factors that influence use of the Checklist in a range of settings around the
world. This analysis article presents an overview of the WHO SCC Collaboration and the lessons garnered from implementing the Checklist across a diverse range of settings.

### HIV, Tuberculosis & Malaria

**Adult antiretroviral therapy guidelines 2017**

by G Meintjes, M Moorhouse, S Carmona et al.
Southern African HIV Clinicians Society
28 pp. 412 kB

Since the release of the previous guidelines published in the Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine in 2014 and a subsequent update in 2015 explaining when to initiate antiretroviral therapy (ART), the scale-up of ART in southern Africa has continued. New antiretroviral drugs have become available with improved efficacy, safety, and more robustness. These guidelines are intended for countries in the southern Africa region, which vary between lower and middle income.

**WHO implementation tool for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) of HIV infection**

World Health Organization, 2017
Access all 11 modules at:
http://www.hivsharespace.net/resource/who-implementation-tool-pre-exposure-prophylaxis-prep-hiv-infection

WHO developed a series of modules to support the implementation of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) among a range of populations in different settings. One of the 11 total modules offers an overview of relevant information for clinicians, including physicians, nurses and clinical officers, who are providing PrEP in clinical settings. Another module provides up-to-date information on PrEP that should be considered in community-led activities that aim to increase knowledge about PrEP and generate demand and access.

**President of Zambia declares HIV testing mandatory**

by Andrew Green
The Lancet - Published: 25 August 2017
1 pp. 111 kB
The President of Zambia has announced HIV testing will now be mandatory in all government health facilities, causing concern among health activists. Zambia is moving forward with mandatory HIV testing for all patients who visit government health facilities, Health Minister Chitalu Chilufya told The Lancet, confirming President Edgar Lungu’s surprise announcement of the new policy in mid-August. The move appears to contradict WHO recommendations against mandatory or coerced testing. And it has sparked an outcry among international and local HIV activists, who are pushing the government to reverse its decision.

Integrating Mental Health and HIV Services in Zimbabwean Communities: A Nurse and Community-led Approach to Reach the Most Vulnerable

by Malia Duffy, Melissa Sharer, Helen Cornman et al.
Journal of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, Vol. 28, No. 2, March/April 2017, 186-198
13 pp. 329 kB

Alcohol use and depression negatively impact adherence, retention in care, and HIV progression, and people living with HIV (PLWH) have disproportionately higher depression rates. In developing countries, more than 76% of people with mental health issues receive no treatment. This Zimbabwe pilot study examined the acceptability and feasibility of an integrated mental health and HIV stepped-care approach in nurses, community health workers, and traditional medicine practitioners. This study indicates that integration of mental health and HIV services can expand availability of mental health services for people living with HIV.

Khutbah and Sermon Guides on Children and HIV for Religious Leaders

Strengthening High Impact Interventions for an AIDS-free Generation (AIDSFree) Project, 2017
39 pp. 16.9 MB

39 pp. 1.2 MB

These khutbah and sermon guides were developed to empower religious leaders with the tools and skills to reach their congregations with key messages on pediatric HIV transmission and prevention; stigma and discrimination; and treatment, care, and support; as well as male involvement in the HIV prevention and response continuum. Both guides were developed in collaboration with religious leaders.
New malaria drug could be ‘game changer’

Clinical trials of KAF156 begin in 9 countries across Africa and Asia
by Clive Cookson
Science Editor, Financial Times, August 21, 2017
Read online at:
https://www.ft.com/content/d17bfbd8-842a-11e7-a4ce-15b2513cb3ff

The first new malaria drug to emerge for 20 years is beginning clinical trials in nine countries across Africa and Asia. KAF156 could be “a game changer”, its developers say, at a time when the malaria parasite is evolving resistance to existing treatments. Novartis, the Swiss drug company, has developed KAF156 in collaboration with Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV), a public-private partnership, and charities including the Wellcome Trust and Gates Foundation. Research suggests that the new medicine quickly clears malaria infection, including resistant strains, and blocks transmission of the parasite.

Neglected Tropical Diseases, Other Infectious diseases & Pandemic Preparedness

From Neglecting To Defeating NTDs

Neglected Tropical Diseases in WHO South Asia Region
World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, August 2017
64 pp. 10.9 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/258727/1/9789290225751-eng.pdf

In the recent past we have seen a major change in the Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) landscape. By bringing this diverse group of diseases under the umbrella of NTDs, WHO played an important advocacy and catalytic role in generating a renewed interest, commitment and support to eradicate, eliminate and control them. Although we have made good progress, the job is far from being done. While efforts to overcome existing operational and programmatic challenges continue, new and emerging issues are being noted as some of the programmes enter into the last mile of elimination.

Estimates of the global, regional, and national morbidity, mortality, and aetiologies of lower respiratory tract infections in 195 countries: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2015

by GBD 2015 Lower Respiratory Tract Infections (LRI) Collaborators
Lancet Infect Dis 2017 - Published: 23 August 2017
29 pp. 22.5 MB
Lower respiratory tract infections (LRIs) are the leading infectious cause of death and the fifth-leading cause of death overall; they are the second-leading cause of DALYs. At the global level, the burden of LRIs has decreased dramatically in the last 10 years in children younger than 5 years, although the burden in people older than 70 years has increased in many regions. LRI remains a largely preventable disease and cause of death, and continued efforts to decrease indoor and ambient air pollution, improve childhood nutrition, and scale up the use of the pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in children and adults will be essential in reducing the global burden of LRI.

**Multidrug therapy for leprosy: a game changer on the path to elimination**

*THE LANCET Infectious Diseases* by Cairns S Smith, Ann Aerts, Paul Saunderson et al. 
Lancet Infect Dis 2017; Vol. 17, No. 9, e293–e297, September 2017 
5 pp. 111 kB 

Leprosy is present in more than 100 countries, where it remains a major cause of peripheral neuropathy and disability. Attempts to eliminate the disease have faced various obstacles, including characteristics of the causative bacillus Mycobacterium leprae: the long incubation period, limited knowledge about its mode of transmission, and its poor growth on culture media. Fortunately, the leprosy bacillus is sensitive to several antibiotics. In 1981, WHO recommended that all registered patients with leprosy should receive combination therapy with three antibiotics: rifampicin, clofazimine, and dapsone. Since 2000, about 250 000 new cases of leprosy have been detected every year. The authors believe an all-out campaign by a global leprosy coalition is needed to bring that figure down to zero.

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

**The seven tactics unhealthy industries use to undermine public health policies**

by Rob Moodie 
The Conversation, August 2017 
Read online at: https://theconversation.com/the-seven-tactics-unhealthy-industries-use-to-undermine-public-health-policies-81137

Across Africa there are examples of governments trying to introduce policies that improve health, and protect the environment only to find their efforts undermined by unhealthy corporations, and their industry associations. A case in point is South Africa’s efforts to introduce a tax on sugary drinks to reduce the growing burden of obesity. In the process they are facing a barrage of resistance. This is one small example of unhealthy industries undermining the public’s health and the global environment.
The Recipe for Success: How policy-makers can integrate water, sanitation and hygiene into actions to end malnutrition

by Sophie Durrans, Dan Jones, Natalia Uribe Pando et al.
Action Against Hunger, SHARE Consortium and WaterAid, August 2017
28 pp. 1.7 MB
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/The_recipe_for_success_English.pdf

In this report the authors analyse the approaches governments and donors are taking to cross-integrate nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) within their nutrition and WASH national policies and plans. The report aims to provide a ‘recipe’, or toolkit, to stimulate debate and discussion of the options and opportunities to bring together WASH and nutrition policies and programmes.

10 Things to Know About the Future of Water and Sanitation

by Nathaniel Mason, Miriam Denis Le Sève, With Roger Calow et al.
Overseas Development Institute (ODI) 2017.
13 pp. 1.1 MB

The world is transforming in many different ways. These shifts – from climate change, to migration, to new technology, and urbanisation – will have a large impact on the management of water resources and related services like sanitation. This impact will be both positive and negative; throwing up a variety of new opportunities and challenges, for people and economies. But how can we make the most of the opportunities, and face the challenges? Here, the authors outline 10 things to know about the future of water and sanitation up to 2030, to do just that.

Future flows: Global trends to watch on water and sanitation

by Nathaniel Mason, Miriam Denis Le Sève and Roger Calow
Overseas Development Institute, August 2017
33 pp. 3.0 MB

Global shifts in water and sanitation will have a profound effect on societies and economies. Other transformations are shaping these shifts, including where people live, what they expect from governments and markets, their productive and polluting activities, how they innovate and whether they pursue conflict or peace. Understanding these shifts and their interplay is important to achieving all of the Sustainable Developments Goals, not just goal six on water and sanitation. In this paper the authors introduce ten global shifts that, in their analysis, present both challenges and opportunities for sustainable development, to 2030 and beyond.
A Framework for Building Resilience to Climate Change through Girls’ Education Programming

by Ellen Chigwanda
Center for Universal Education at Brookings Institution, December 2016
23 pp. 3.3 MB

This paper reflects some initial thinking on the significance of climate change, and more specifically drought, as a barrier to girls’ education. The paper highlights the opportunities presented by girls’ education work to build climate resilience at multiple levels - program, school, and community as well as at the level of the girl child - with a view to fostering a partnership between actors in the climate change and girls’ education sectors, which collectively ensures that every girl continues to learn, especially during crises.

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

Aid to education is stagnating and not going to countries most in need

Global Education Monitoring Report
c/o UNESCO, 2017
9 pp. 429 kB
http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002495/249568e.pdf

Domestic expenditures in low and lower middle income countries cannot cover the costs of reaching Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), and so aid must make up the shortfall. But aid to education has been stagnant since 2010, and the aid that is given often does not go to the countries most in need, worsening the prospects for achieving global education goals. The paper provides country-specific examples of donors’ biased resource allocation. It demonstrates that aid is not allocated according to out of school rates so as to meet the cost of achieving universal education in each country concerned.
Death rates have declined, largely due to successes in HIV, but a lot more needs to be done to defeat its “terrible twin”, tuberculosis (TB). This is according to the 20th edition of the South African Health Review published by the Health Systems Trust (HST). The review, published annually, noted that life expectancy which rose from its lowest levels in the mid 2000s, has been maintained. In 2006, due to the explosion in new HIV infections and little access to treatment, life expectancy was 52 years but in 2015 it had risen to over 63 and remains stable. This increase was driven by a massively scaled-up antiretroviral programme: the largest in the world.

The financial and economic crisis has had a visible but varied impact on many health systems in Europe, eliciting a wide range of responses from governments faced with increased financial and other pressures. This book maps health system responses by country, providing a detailed analysis of policy changes in nine countries and shorter overviews of policy responses in 47 countries. It draws on a large study involving over one hundred health system experts and academic researchers across Europe.

Non-physician clinicians in rural Africa: lessons from the Medical Licentiate programme in Zambia

by Jakub Gajewski, Carol Mweemba, Mweene Cheelo et al.
Human Resources for Health, 2017 15:53 - Published: 22 August 2017
9 pp. 387 kB
Most sub-Saharan African countries struggle to make safe surgery accessible to rural populations due to a shortage of qualified surgeons and the unlikelihood of retaining them in district hospitals. In 2002, Zambia introduced a new cadre of non-physician clinicians (NPCs), medical licentiates (MLs), trained initially to the level of a higher diploma and from 2013 up to a BSc degree. MLs have advanced clinical skills, including training in elective and emergency surgery, designed as a sustainable response to the surgical needs of rural populations. The paper provides new evidence concerning the benefits of ‘task shifting’ and identifies challenges that need to be addressed if MLs are to be a sustainable response to the surgical needs of rural populations in Zambia.

Picturing the past and present of health care in Germany

by Matthieu Zellweger
8 pp. 2.6 MB

http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(17)31761-0.pdf

The Lancet Series on Germany highlights the resilience of the German health system, which is characterised by principles of solidarity and self-governance, over its turbulent history - a history marked by revolutions, wars, separation and re-unification of the country. These photographs capture images that highlight aspects of this history, from the late 19th century to the realities of 2017, from the discoveries of Robert Koch to memorials to the dark days of war. The moments captured in these photographs also celebrate current, state-of-the-art, scientific achievements and Germany’s welcoming attitude to refugees in the wake of the 2015 wave of migration.

Robert Koch Institut: towards digital epidemiology

by Anita Makri
The Lancet Vol. 390, No. 10097, p833, 26 August 2017
1 pp. 296 kB

http://www.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/lancet/PIIS0140-6736(17)32278-X.pdf

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI) is setting its sights on a digital future, in which epidemiological intelligence does not rely solely on conventional monitoring through surveys and field data, but links up with machine learning and artificial intelligence. “The goal is to identify illness in real time when it comes to infectious disease outbreaks, but also to track behavioural changes in the community”, says Lothar Wieler, President of the RKI, Germany’s central scientific institution in the field of biomedicine. “We need to identify signals as soon as possible.” This drive towards digital epidemiology is central to the RKI’s new strategy. It is also one of the ways that the institute strives to both honour and push the boundaries of the legacy left behind by its founder, microbiologist Robert Koch, known for pioneering methods to grow bacteria and for the discovery of what causes anthrax, tuberculosis, and cholera.
A bold open-access push in Germany could change the future of academic publishing

by Gretchen Vogel and Kai Kupferschmidt

Science, August 23, 2017
Read online at:

Over the past 2 years, more than 150 German libraries, universities, and research institutes have formed a united front trying to force academic publishers into a new way of doing business. Instead of buying subscriptions to specific journals, consortium members want to pay publishers an annual lump sum that covers publication costs of all papers whose first authors are at German institutions. Those papers would be freely available around the world; meanwhile, German institutions would receive access to all the publishers’ online content. Germany’s consortium, named Projekt DEAL, thinks a successful outcome could help trigger what some call a “big flip,” a global transition toward open access. “If it works, it would be a model for the rest of the world,” says one negotiator, mathematician Günter Ziegler of the Free University of Berlin.

The Use of Facebook in Recruiting Participants for Health Research Purposes: A Systematic Review

by Christopher Whitaker, Sharon Stevelink, Nicola Fear et al.
J Med Internet Res 2017;19(8):e290
11 pp. 499 kB
http://www.jmir.org/article/viewFile/jmir_v19i8e290/2

The aim of this study was to systematically review the literature regarding the current use and success of Facebook to recruit participants for health research purposes. The authors conclude that there is growing evidence to suggest that Facebook is a useful recruitment tool and its use, therefore, should be considered when implementing future health research. When compared with traditional recruitment methods (print, radio, television, and email), benefits include reduced costs, shorter recruitment periods, better representation, and improved participant selection in young and hard to reach demographics. It however, remains limited by Internet access and the over representation of young white women. Future studies should recruit across all ages and explore recruitment via other forms of social media.
Access to Medical Products, Vaccines and Technologies

Proactive Investigation into Anti-Malarial Product Theft from Public Health Facilities in Malawi

20 pp. 1.1 MB
https://www.theglobalfund.org/media/6697/oig_gf-oig-17-017_report_en.pdf

This OIG investigation report documents work to disrupt the theft of donor-funded artemisinin-based combination therapy (ACT), an anti-malaria drug, from public health facilities in Malawi. The Global Fund OIG worked closely with Malawian authorities and other donor organizations, particularly the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) OIG, to investigate those responsible for the theft, to encourage the public to report wrongdoing and to support national capacity building to prevent further leakage.

Logistics Competencies, Skills, and Training: A Global Overview

by Alan McKinnon, Christoph Flöthmann, Kai Hoberget al.
A World Bank Study, 2017
111 pp. 6.7 MB
https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/27723/9781464811401.pdf?sequence=2&isAllowed=y

This new report shows the global shortage of supply chain competence, proposes some reasons why and presents ideas to consider for improvement. The project compares the logistics skills and training situations in developing markets in Africa, South America and Asia with those of more developed countries in Europe and North America. It identifies examples of good practices and institutions to Logistics Competencies, Skills, and Training ‘upskill’ the logistics sectors. Finally, one of this study’s main outputs is guidance to governments and stakeholders of developing countries on how to upgrade logistics skills and training capabilities.

Fair Pricing Forum - 2017 Meeting Report

Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 11 May 2017
by Beurs van Berlage
World Health Organization
15 pp. 4.9 MB
The main aim of the Forum was to enable stakeholders to discuss options for a fairer pricing system that is sustainable for both health systems and the pharmaceutical industries.

The Forum sought to address three questions:
- What can governments do to ensure fairer medicines prices and greater access?
- What can industry do?
- How can WHO support the process?

Key issues addressed included: developing alternative approaches for research and development (R&D) and business models for innovation; facilitating collaboration among payers by expanding current networks to include other relevant stakeholders and countries; increasing exchange of information, for example to assess the value of new products; promoting transparency of prices paid, R&D costs, production costs, and profit margins.

A killer nailed: A reconstruction of Maldives’ triumph over measles

World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, August, 2017
40 pp. 3.3 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/258736/1/9789290225942.pdf

Close to four decades ago, Maldives, in collaboration with WHO, started its programme of immunization on, with the introduction of MCV 1 as part of the Expanded Programme on Immunization. At that time, people would hide in the jungles to escape from being immunized. Today, Maldives has over 95% immunization coverage, with an informed population that understands the need for and benefits of immunization. In April 2017, the WHO South-East Asia Regional Verification Commission was convinced that endemic measles transmission has been interrupted throughout the country, making Maldives one of the first two countries of the Region to achieve this success.

Banished from Bhutan: The story of how a small mountain kingdom eliminated measles

World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, August, 2017
36 pp. 5.3 MB

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/258737/1/9789290225935.pdf

Bhutan has shown us that when dedicated men and women come together under committed leadership, they can achieve their goals, surely and convincingly. Through visionary leadership and strategic planning, the country has built a fortress against measles, far in advance of the targets set in September 2013, to eliminate measles by 2020. Bhutan is a country that measures success through the happiness of its people. Ensuring good health is, therefore, germane to its policy.
Management and Quality of Health Services and Facilities

Health research: solutions through knowledge

World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, August, 2017
76 pp. 5.8 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/258728/1/9789290225799-eng.pdf

The primary purpose of this document is to encourage greater investments in cutting edge research that will lead to policy and programmes for effective transformation of the health landscape in the WHO South-East Asia Region. At a more basic level, it also hopes to inspire a newer generation of researchers to take up the numerous health challenges faced by the Region’s populations and come up with the knowledge and expertise needed to overcome them. The document attempts to achieve these objectives through a presentation of case studies showcasing research-driven health interventions, across the South-East Asia, over the last several decades. These transformative initiatives have saved millions of lives and contributed to significant gains in improving health in the Region.

Universal Health Coverage, Health Financing and Social Health Protection

Social protection for resilience building: Supporting livelihoods in protracted crises, fragile and humanitarian contexts

by Natalia Winder Rossi, Federico Spano, Rachel Sabates-Wheeler et al.
Institute of Development Studies, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, August 2017
52 pp. 3.9 MB
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/social%20protection.pdf

The paper discusses the role that social protection can play in saving livelihoods while also enhancing the capacity of households to respond, cope and withstand threats and crises. The paper builds on FAO Social Protection Framework (FAO, 2017) and focuses on the role of social protection systems in humanitarian contexts, with a closer look at protracted crises and a discussion on the importance of shock-sensitive and responsive systems, even in stable contexts. The paper acknowledges that strengthening resilience at national and community levels requires a multisector approach, where risk-informed social protection interventions, including cash transfers, can become a critical component.
The most recent statistics available suggest that the share of population aged 60+ years and over in the Asia-Pacific will rise from 7.6% in 2015 to 17.8% by 2050. The greying of populations in this region poses important and interlinked policy challenges for economies, families and especially the health sector. Rising numbers of the elderly has meant a growing prevalence of chronic non-communicable conditions (NCDs). Public sector allocations to health sectors in many countries in the region have not kept pace with population needs, leaving the private sector to fill the gap with risks for efficiency, equity and cost inflation of health services.

People are progressively ageing all over the world, and it is estimated that the number of persons aged 60 or over will more than triple by 2100. This emerging population will experience an inevitable rise in dementia, mental health problems and chronic diseases. The book aims to contribute to the development of knowledge in Aging and Mental Health, taking different approaches from authors, coming from diverse scientific fields, with the final goal being the improvement of quality of life and healthy aging for this growing population.

Dementia is the greatest global challenge for health and social care in the 21st century: around 50 million people worldwide have dementia and this number is predicted to triple by 2050. The Lancet
Commission on dementia aims to review the best available evidence and produce recommendations on how to best manage, or even prevent, the dementia epidemic. Dementia is not an inevitable consequence of ageing and the Commission identifies nine potentially modifiable health and lifestyle factors from different phases of life that, if eliminated, might prevent dementia. Although therapies are currently not available to modify the underlying disease process, the Commission outlines pharmacological and social interventions that are able to help manage the manifestations of dementia.

Inclusion of People with Disabilities

There is a major obstacle to tracking disability inclusion in the SDGs

by Amy Lieberman
Devex, 24 August 2017
Read online at:

As countries work through the early stages of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, a development agenda designed to represent everyone, some disability experts are questioning how effectively national plans can incorporate people with disabilities. One major challenge could impede this process: there is no accepted definition of what it means to be a person with a disability, and no single, international system for collecting demographic information on people with disabilities.

Perspectives of basic wheelchair users on improving their access to wheelchair services in Kenya and Philippines: a qualitative study

by Emma Williams, Elizabeth Hurwitz, Immaculate Obaga
BMC International Health and Human Rights, 2017 17:22 - Published: 17 August 2017
12 pp. 479 kB


The United Nations has called for countries to improve access to mobility devices when needed. The World Health Organization has published guidelines on the provision of manual wheelchairs in less-resourced settings. Yet little is known about the extent to which appropriate wheelchairs are available and provided according to international guidelines. This study’s purpose was to describe wheelchair users’ experiences receiving services and acquiring wheelchair skills in urban and peri-urban areas of Kenya and the Philippines. The authors conclude that interventions are needed to provide wheelchairs services efficiently, at scale, in an environment facilitating physical access and peer support, and reduced social stigma.
Humanitarian Hands-on Tool (HHoT)

www.cbm.org/HHoT

On 19 August 2017, World Humanitarian Day, CBM launched the smartphone app ‘Humanitarian Hands-on Tool’ (HHoT), which provides step-by-step guidance on how to implement an inclusive emergency response. Easy to use and fully accessible, this is the first application of its kind.

With disability-inclusive humanitarian action broken down into individual task cards, which explain the basic 'how-to' details in simple language and images, this web-based tool and downloadable mobile app aims to become the ‘go-to’ field resource for all agencies planning humanitarian work that leaves no-one behind.

Global Health Governance, Sustainable Development Goals & Development Cooperation

Monitoring Health in the Sustainable Development Goals: 2017 update

World Health Organization, Regional Office for South-East Asia, August 2017
63 pp. 5.2 MB
http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/258751/1/9789290226048-eng.pdf

This new publication provides an update to last year’s first analysis of Health in the Sustainable Development Goals: where we are now in the South-East Asia Region; what next. What is new in this publication? First, there is an overview of how near or far countries are from achieving the 2030 SDG health targets. This is possible for 16 out of the 38 indicators presented here, for which global targets have been set. In future, we will be able to report in this way for progressively more indicators, as global targets are agreed upon. Second, the final indicators of the global SDG indicator framework agreed to earlier this year are used in this report. This includes the revised universal health coverage (UHC) indicator on financial protection.

The Future of Aid INGOs in 2030

by Michel Maietta, Eilidh Kennedy, Francois Bourse
Action Against Hunger, 2017
178 pp. 52.5 MB(!)
http://iaran.org/futureofaid/The_Future_Of_Aid_INGOs_In_2030-33.pdf

Today’s world is plagued by long and complex conflicts, widespread involuntary migration, violent natural disasters, and rising inequality. The next 15 years will likely see humanitarian needs grow further and International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) and other aid actors will play a vital role in alleviating human suffering, promoting peace and development, and driving human progress globally. This report warns of what is to
come, whilst providing practical solutions to those organisations that are ready to rise to the challenge.

**Monitoring Handbook on Proposal Development for ASEAN Cooperation Projects**

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat, Jakarta, August 2017
72 pp. 4.1 MB


This Handbook offers a simplified and practical reference for project proponents who are looking to develop and submit project proposals through the use of the ASEAN Cooperation Project Proposal Template. The handbook is also aiming to guide proponents and relevant stakeholders through the implementation of their projects. This guidance encompasses assisting them in the monitoring of approved projects, as well as assisting them in the completion and submission of completion reports through the use of the prescribed ASEAN Cooperation Project Completion Template. Both of these templates can be accessed at: [http://asean.org/resource/asean-project-templates/](http://asean.org/resource/asean-project-templates/)

**CONFERENCES & TRAINING**

**Towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) - promoting and responding to Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (MNCAH)**

18 to 22 September 2017
Johannesburg/Pretoria, South Africa


Participants are cordially invited to a workshop entitled: Towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) - promoting and responding to Maternal, Neonatal, Child and Adolescent Health (MNCAH). Under the Researcher Links scheme offered by the Newton Fund, together with the British Council, the Human Sciences Research Council (South Africa), Imperial College London (United Kingdom) and Aga Khan University (Kenya), will be hosting a workshop on the above theme.

**7th MIM Pan African Malaria Conference**

April 15-20, 2018 – Dakar, Senegal


The University Cheikh Anta Diop (UCAD) has the pleasure to organize the 7th Pan African Multilateral Initiative on Malaria (MIM) in April 2018.
Twenty years after the first MIM meeting, Dakar Senegal will once more, have the honour to host this prestigious malaria conference. By adopting the theme “Dakar II: Two decades of progress, challenges and perspectives in ending Malaria” the 7th MIM conference will serve as an opportunity to review MIM’s 20 years of contribution to the global goal of ending malaria in Africa, to better address current malaria research and control priorities.

Online course: MalariaX

https://www.edx.org/course/malariax-defeating-malaria-genes-globe-harvardx-ph425x#!

Defeating Malaria: From the Genes to the Globe is a university-wide initiative at Harvard University that supports the control and ultimate eradication of malaria. Join others from around the world in the effort to #EndMalaria. Enroll in MalariaX, the open-access, online course.

CARTOON
TIPS & TRICKS

Acronym Finder

http://www.acronymfinder.com/

Acronym Finder is a searchable database of over 2,446,000 acronyms conveniently online. This site is not a dictionary, or a thesaurus. It is completely devoted to acronyms. If you did not find an acronym you tried and you know what the acronym stands for then you can add it and it will be reviewed for submission into the search engine.

WINDOWS Key Shortcuts

In previous issues of HESP-News Briefing the WINDOWS key at your keyboard was mentioned for a quick run-up of the Start Menu. It can be used in conjunction with other keys to act as a keyboard shortcut for faster access to various Windows tools...

Win key + R will open the Start menu's Run box
Win key + E will quickly launch Windows Explorer
Win key + Pause/Break will open the System Properties window
Win key + M will Minimize all windows
Win key + Shift + M will undo Minimize all windows
Win key + D will switch between minimizing all open programs and showing them all
Win key + Tab will cycle through items on the taskbar
Win key by itself will open the Start menu