



HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

27 November 2009

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Improving the coverage of the PMTCT programme through a participatory quality improvement intervention in South Africa
Tanya Doherty, Mickey Chopra, Duduzile Nsibandé, and Dudu Mngoma. BMC Public Health. 2009; 9: 406. Published: 5 November 2009.

Despite several years of implementation, prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programmes in many resource poor settings are failing to reach the majority of HIV positive women. We report on a data driven participatory quality improvement intervention implemented in a high HIV prevalence district in South Africa... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2777166/?tool=pubmed> [Accessed: 22 November 2009]

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An Economic Framework for Analysing the Social Determinants of Health and Health Inequalities

David Epstein, Dolores Jiménez-Rubio, Peter C Smith, Marc Suhrcke CHE Research Paper series - Centre for Health Economics. University of York. Published: October 2009.

Reducing health inequalities is an important part of health policy in most countries. This paper discusses from an economic perspective how government policy can influence health inequalities, particularly focusing on the outcome of performance targets in England, and the role of sectors of the economy outside the health service – the “social determinants” of health - in delivering these targets ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che/pdf/rp52.pdf> [Accessed: 22 November 2009]

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Recent News

Minister reveals “shocking” figures on Aids-related deaths

Mail&Guardian. Published: 10 November 2009.

South Africa's death rate doubled over the last decade due to the spread of Aids, the Health Minister said on Tuesday, blaming the crisis on government policies under former President Thabo Mbeki. “In 11 years -- from 1997 to 2008 -- the rate of death has doubled in South Africa. That is obviously something that cannot but worry a person,” Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi told reporters at Parliament in Cape Town. He said that in 1997 the total number of deaths stood about 300 000. Last year the figure was 756 000 ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-10-minister-reveals-shocking-figures-on-aidsrelated-deaths> [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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Government team to probe state of public hospitals

Bongani Mthembu. Mail&Guardian. Published: 20 November 2009.

A group of senior government officials is to assess the state of South Africa's 354 public hospitals, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said on Friday. “The team will look at each and every public health institution's problems, because we believe that our institutions are not doing well,” he told hospital chief executives and managers at the University of KwaZulu-Natal ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2009-11-20-govt-team-to-probe-state-of-public-hospitals> [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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Death stats “implausible”

Kerry Cullinan. Health-e News. Published: 17 November 2009.

The Health Department's claim of a massive jump in deaths in 2008 is unlikely, according to experts. Death statistics released by the Department of Health last week that showed a jump of 182,654 deaths in a single year are “implausible”. This is according to the Medical Research Council (MRC), which usually supplies government with mortality figures ... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032574> [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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Consequences of less funding for AIDS

Khopotso Bodibe. Health-e News Published: 19 November 2009.

Thanks to the international recession, donors are either decreasing or opting not to increase their funding of AIDS treatment. This will have devastating effects on poorer countries that are largely dependent on foreign aid. South Africa is not spared from the financial crisis. Recently, the Treasury had to find R900 million in the government's coffers to give life to the country's ailing AIDS treatment programme ...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032576> [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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At its 20th Board meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, last week, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) affirmed its commitment to joint collaboration with global health partnerships on health systems strengthening. In addition to strong working relationships with public-private partnerships such as Stop TB, Roll Back Malaria and UNITAID, the Global Fund works closely with other global actors including GAVI, WHO, the World Bank, UNAIDS and, increasingly, with newer health system-focused partnerships such as the International Health Partnership (IHP+), the Global Health Workforce Alliance (GHWA), as well as HMN ... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.hst.org.za/news/20041949> [Accessed: 24 November 2009]

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Request for Proposals: Small Grants Program to Support Research in FP/RH

MEASURE. Deadline to submit is 31 December 2009.

MEASURE Evaluation Population & Reproductive Health (PRH) is pleased to announce a small grants program to build the evidence base in family planning and reproductive health (FP/RH), support the research efforts of developing country researchers and their institutions, and maximize opportunities to use research findings for decision-making ... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/prh-population-and-reproductive-health/request-for-proposals> [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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Reports

IAS 2009 Impact Report

5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention. 19-22 July 2009, CapeTown.

Consistent with the focus of the IAS Conference series, the IAS 2009 Impact Report aims not only to highlight particularly important original research and other developments detailed at IAS 2009, but to analyse their potential impact on policy and practice ... [Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.iasociety.org/Default.aspx?pageld=147> [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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In Action: Saving the Lives of Africa's Mothers, Newborns, and Children

ASADI.

This report describes how credible scientific evidence can turn policy into action and change the current state of maternal and child health in sub-Saharan Africa ... [Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.nationalacademies.org/asadi/2009_Conference/PDFs/ScienceInAction_FullReport.pdf [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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Publications

An assessment of current support strategies for patients with TB in KwaZulu-Natal

Elizabeth Lutge, Zimisele Ndelela and Irwin Friedman. Health Systems Trust. Published: November 2009.

Health Systems Trust has just released its latest publication entitled, "An assessment of current support strategies for patients with TB in KwaZulu-Natal". The study probed the level of need for material assistance experienced by patients with TB in KwaZulu-Natal, and the impact of such assistance's provision ... [Full Publication »](#)

Source: <http://hst.org.za/news/20041948> [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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From Inception to Large Scale: The Geração Biz Programme in Mozambique

Pathfinder International and the World Health Organization. Published: 2009.

A joint publication of the World Health Organization and Pathfinder International, this case study describes how the Government of Mozambique has scaled up its successful youth HIV prevention and sexual and reproductive health program to a national level with support from IINFP and

technical overview of the multi-sectoral program and its interventions, a detailed description of the scale up process and lessons learned, as well as overall program achievements ... [Full Publication »](#)

Source: http://www.pathfind.org/Pubs_Adolescents [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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The State of World Population 2009 - Facing a changing world: women, population and climate

United Nations Population Fund. Published: November 2009.

A growing body of evidence shows that recent climate change is primarily the result of human activity. The influence of human activity on climate change is complex. It is about what we consume, the types of energy we produce and use, whether we live in a city or on a farm, whether we live in a rich or poor country, whether we are young or old, what we eat, and even the extent to which women and men enjoy equal rights and opportunities. It is also about our growing numbers—approaching 7 billion ... [Full Publication »](#)

Source: <http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2009/en/overview.shtml> [Accessed: 24 November 2009]

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The State of the World's Children report

UNICEF. Published: November 2009.

On 20 November 1989, the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To commemorate this landmark, UNICEF is dedicating a special edition of its flagship report, The State of the World's Children, to child rights. The report and accompanying video address the progress that has been made in the last 20 years and the role the Convention can fulfil moving forward into the future ... [Full Publication »](#)

Source: <http://www.unicef.org/rightsite/sowc/>[Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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Conferences

The 5th Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) 2009 Conference

30 November - 2 December 2009 Durban, South Africa.

Assessment of progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) during 2008 (the midpoint) revealed a mixed picture: many health goals remain off target, and huge inequities remain between and within countries. Existing evidence suggests that very few, if any, of the MDGs will be achieved in sub-Saharan Africa. The 2009 PHASA Conference is therefore aptly focused on the MDGs and measuring their progress from a public health perspective. An exciting programme is being put together of local and international speakers, including policy makers, leading local and international academics and international organisations, such as the World Health Organisation (WHO). [Registration Details »](#)

Source: <http://hst.org.za/news/20041943> [Accessed: 14 October 2009]

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4th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights 2010

8-15 February 2010. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The 4th African Conference on Sexual Health and Rights is part of a long-term process of building and fostering regional dialogue on sexual rights and health that leads to concrete action to influence policy particularly that of the African Union and its bodies. On behalf of the Scientific Committee, the Organizing Committee for the 4th Africa Conference on Sexual Health and Rights would like to invite Abstracts (oral presentations and posters) exploring the overall theme of the Conference & Sexuality and HIV & AIDS in Africa". More information can be found at <http://www.africalsexuality.org/>. Any queries/request for additional information should be sent to: 4srhconference@ippfaro.org
Abstract Submission Deadline: 30th September 2009

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The 26th International Paediatric Association Congress of Pediatrics 2010

4-9 August 2010. Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa.

Three leading paediatric associations, IPA, SAPA, and UNASPA, are uniting to host the 26th International Paediatric Association Congress of Paediatrics. More than 5,000 participants are expected to attend this landmark event, the first IPA Congress to be held in Sub-Saharan Africa. Just five years before the due date of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), IPA 2010 will unite paediatricians and health professionals working towards the MDGs target to reduce child mortality by two thirds before 2015. [Registration Details »](#)

Source: <http://www.kenes.com/ipa/mailshot/ms3.htm?ref3=db1> [Accessed: 13 October 2009]

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MedInfo 13th World Congress on Medical and Health Informatics 2010

12-15 September 2010. Cape Town, South Africa.

This will be the first time MEDINFO is held in Africa. It promises to boost exposure to grassroots healthcare delivery and the underpinning health information systems. This will open the door to new academic partnerships in the future and help to nurture a new breed of health informaticians. [Registration Details >](#)

Source: www.medinfo2010.org [Accessed: 13 October 2009]

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Training and Resources

Municipal Services Project - New Website

The Municipal Service Project (MSP) systematically explores alternatives to the privatisation and commercialisation of service provision in the health, water, sanitation and electricity sectors. We evaluate service delivery models deemed to be successful alternatives to commercialisation in an effort to understand the conditions required for their sustainability and reproducibility. This website is an interactive platform for researchers and others around the world to engage in discussions of this topic. We encourage you to participate in the discussion forum, to post research material and popular education tools, and to download publications for your own use. [Click Here](#) to Access

Source: www.municipalservicesproject.org [Accessed: 23 November 2009]

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Job Opportunities

AHP - African Health Placements

We are a not-for-profit project that aims to support the recruitment and retention of healthcare workers in South Africa. AHP is focused on:

- Assisting Healthcare Professionals make the right choice for their future in South Africa.
- Supporting S.A. NGOs with a focus on HIV/AIDS and TB Clinics as well as rural and urban Government Hospitals with all recruitment needs.

No placement fees are charged. Please view the website for more details <http://www.ahp.org.za> or contact on 011 328 1300

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