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## Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

### Claims on health care: a decision-making framework for equity, with application to treatment for HIV/AIDS in South Africa

Susan M Cleary, Gavin H Mooney and Diane E McIntyre. *Health Policy Plan.* (2010) Published: 24 December 2010.

Trying to determine how best to allocate resources in health care is especially difficult when resources are severely constrained, as is the case in all developing countries. This is particularly true in South Africa currently where the HIV epidemic adds significantly to a health service already overstretched by the demands made upon it. This paper proposes a framework for determining how best to allocate scarce health care resources in such circumstances...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2010/12/23/heapol.czq081.long> [Accessed: 5 January 2011]

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### Adjusting mortality for loss to follow-up: Analysis of five ART programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa

Brinkhof MWG, Spycher BD, Yiannoutsos C, Weigel R, Wood R, et al. 2010 Adjusting mortality for loss to follow-up: Analysis of five ART programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa. *PLoS ONE* 5(11).

Evaluation of antiretroviral treatment (ART) programmes in sub-Saharan Africa is difficult because many patients are lost to follow-up. Outcomes in these patients are generally unknown but studies tracing patients have shown mortality to be high. We adjusted programme-level mortality in the first year of antiretroviral treatment (ART) for excess mortality in patients lost to follow-up...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0014149> [Approx. 250kb] [Accessed: 5 January 2011].

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### Easier said than done: World Health Organization recommendations for Prevention of Mother-to-Child-Transmission of HIV: areas of concern

Leonardo Palombi, Karin Nielsen-Saines, Marina Giuliano, Maria Cristina Marazzi. *AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses.* Published: 11 December 2010.

The World Health Organization released recommendations on treatment, prevention, and infant feeding practices within the context of HIV infection based on the "latest scientific evidence" available. The "Rapid Advice" document anticipates the release of official HIV Prevention-of-Mother-to-Child Transmission guidelines. As investigators involved in public health programs providing HIV care in Sub-Saharan Africa, we are concerned about the ramifications of specific recommendations, often viewed as dogma by policy makers in this setting...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089/AID.2010.0296> [Accessed: 5 January 2011]

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### **Strengthening public health surveillance and response using the health systems strengthening agenda in developing countries**

*Peter Nsubuga<sup>1</sup> email, Okey Nwanyanwu<sup>2</sup>, John N Nkengasong<sup>3</sup>, David Mukanga and Murray Trostle. BMC Public Health 2010, 10(Suppl 1):S5. Published: 3 December 2010.*

There is increased interest in strengthening health systems for developing countries. However, at present, there is common uncertainty about how to accomplish this task. Specifically, several nations are faced with an immense challenge of revamping an entire system. To accomplish this, it is essential to first identify the components of the system that require modification. The World Health Organization (WHO) has proposed health system building blocks, which are now widely recognized as essential components of health systems strengthening...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/10/S1/S5> [Accessed: 6 January 2011]

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### **Monitoring gender equity in health using gender-sensitive indicators: A cross-national study**

*Natalia Diaz-Granados, Kristen Blythe Pitzul, Linda M. Dorado, Feng Wang, Sarah McDermott, Marta B. Rondon, Jose Posada-Villa, Javier Saavedra, Yolanda Torres, Marie Des Meules, Donna E. Stewart. Journal of Women's Health. Published: 29 December 2010.*

As gender is known to be a major determinant of health, monitoring gender equity in health systems remains a vital public health priority. Focusing on a low-income (Peru), middle-income (Colombia), and high-income (Canada) country in the Americas, this study aimed to (1) identify and select gender-sensitive health indicators and (2) assess the feasibility of measuring and comparing gender-sensitive health indicators among countries...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089/jwh.2010.2057> [Accessed: 6 January 2011]

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## **Recent News**

### **HIV stalls progress on MDGs**

*PlusNews. Published: 3 January 2011.*

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is severely hampering South Africa's ability to achieve several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Nearly 800 South Africans died every day from AIDS-related illnesses in 2009 and more than 1,110 became newly infected daily, according to the South African Health Review (SAHR) 2010, which reveals the immense challenges in achieving the eight goals set by the UN in 2000...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=91514> [Accessed: 5 January 2011]

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### **Scale up of treatment linked to rise in loss to follow-up, but those in care continue to do well**

*Carole Leach-Lemens. Aidsmap. Published: 5 January 2011.*

Low death rates and high rates of viral load suppression have been sustained throughout the seven years of scale-up in a community-based antiretroviral treatment service in a poor area of Cape Town, South Africa. However, the cumulative probabilities of loss to follow-up (LTFU) and virological failure increased over time suggesting a decreased capacity to support the long-term therapy needs of a growing caseload, according to Mweete D. Nglazi and colleagues in a prospective cohort study reported in the advance online edition of the Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes.... [Read More »](#)

Source:

<http://www.aidsmap.com/Scale-up-of-treatment-linked-to-rise-in-loss-to-follow-up-but-those-in-care-continue-to-do-well/page/1600519/> [Accessed: 5 January 2011]

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### **HIV/AIDS: Top 10 for 2010**

*PlusNews. Published: 29 December 2010.*

This has been an exciting year for the fight against HIV, with dramatic developments in biomedical HIV prevention and a record five million people receiving life-prolonging treatment. It has also been a year fraught with funding difficulties and the continued discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and other marginalized groups. Here are the picks from PlusNews coverage...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=91479> [Accessed: 5 January 2011]

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### **There's no crisis, says health department**

*IOL. Published: 3 January 2011.*

The Gauteng health department has approved the hiring of specialists to fill vacant posts in the province's hospital, an official said on Monday. "It is not true that the hospitals are starting the year in a crisis because of the moratorium on the filling of specialists' posts,"

departmental spokesperson Simon Zwane said in a statement...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/there-s-no-crisis-says-health-department-1.1007491> [Accessed: 5 January 2011]

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## Training and Resources

### Summer school on governance and development.

4-8 April 2011. Mozambique.

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation in association with SOAS and the Centre of African Studies-University of London is organising a Summer School in Mozambique in April 2011 on the topic of 'Governance and Development in Africa'. The residential school is for 25 participants who are policy makers, academics, researchers or civil society representatives from any African country who will gain, through this training, new ideas and knowledge on the broad issue of governance and development.

For more information: <http://www.pambazuka.org/images/articles/509/applications.pdf>(Approximately: 710 KB)

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### Advocacy and citizen engagement certificate

May 30 - June 17, 2011 & October 24 - November 11, 2011. St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada.

This three-week certificate explores advocacy as a political act. It is designed to enhance the capacity of civil society to influence decision-makers and policy makers by building the constituency for change and mobilizing public opinion around issues of common concern. Applicants from developing countries are eligible for Coady Institute scholarships and bursaries that cover most of the cost of tuition, room and board.

For more information: <http://www.coady.stfx.ca/education/certificates/advocacy/>

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## Reports and Publications

### A human rights-based approach to programming

UNFPA and Harvard School of Public Health. Published: December 2010.

This Manual provides step-by-step guidance on how to apply a culturally sensitive, gender-responsive, human rights-based approach to programming in each of UNFPA's three core areas of work: population and development, reproductive health, and gender. It also covers how to apply such an approach in the context of a humanitarian emergency. This pdf includes a facilitator manual...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <https://www.unfpa.org/public/site/global/pid/4919> [Accessed: 5 January 2011]

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## Conferences

### AfricaAdapt Climate Change Symposium 2011

Venue: 9-11 March 2011. Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

URL: <http://www.africa-adapt.net/AA/ProjectOverview.aspx?PID=NxDcOtqzqiA%3d>

This three-day bilingual (French/English) symposium is a landmark event focusing on evolving approaches, tools, methods and philosophies addressing the links between increasing climate change and variability in Africa and sustainable development. It will feature keynote speakers from across the continent, and also provide a space for creative new exchanges and collaboration between African research, media, policy, and community practitioners. This is an opportunity to share your knowledge and experience of this important subject and work with others to help make a difference.

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### Third International Conference for Improving Use of Medicines: Informed Strategies, Effective Policies, Lasting Solutions

Venue: 10 -14 April 2011, Alexandria, Egypt

URL: <http://www.inrud.org/ICIUM/ICIUM-2011.cfm>

In April 2011, members of the international community will assemble in Alexandria, Egypt for ICIUM 2011: Third International Conference for Improving Use of Medicines. Many working in the pharmaceutical field will remember the landmark ICIUM 1997 and ICIUM 2004 conferences, which summarized the evolving state-of-the-art policies and interventions to improve use of medicines. The conference will again be highly interactive and designed to produce actionable results. Its focus will remain on presenting and summarizing knowledge about ways to improve medicines use and health, especially for vulnerable populations. Participants will help to shape evidence based policy recommendations and a future research agenda on these topics. The sequence of half-day sessions will be organized around different levels of the health care system.

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## Job Opportunities

### AHP - African Health Placements

AHP is 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. 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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### **Water Sanitation and Hygiene Programme Advisor**

*Oxfam.*

*Closing Date: Friday, January 14, 2011*

Oxfam's South Africa Country Office, managed by Oxfam Australia, seeks to employ a Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Programme Advisor, based in Durban. The Programme Officer will be responsible for the design and delivery of the AusAID funded Australia Africa Community Engagement Scheme (AACES) WASH programme delivered through the Oxfam offices in South Africa and Zambia.

Please view the website for more details  
<http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/oxfam-australia-water-sanitation-and-hygiene-programme-advisor>

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### **Manager - Membership and Advisory Services**

*Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.*

*Closing Date: Saturday, January 15, 2011*

The Global Business Coalition on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (GBC) is a coalition of more than 200 companies united in the fight to defeat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis around the world. It is a movement of businesses that bring private sector assets and expertise to the global fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The Coalition seeks to appoint a Manager for Membership and Advisory Services, based in Johannesburg.

Please view the website for more details  
<http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/global-business-coalition-hivaids-tuberculosis-and-malaria-manager-membership-and-adviso>

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