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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

The feasibility of measuring and monitoring social determinants of health and the relevance for policy and programme – a qualitative assessment of four countries

Global Health Action | Published: 20 January 2017.

Erik Blas, John E. Ataguba, Tanvir M. Huda, Giang Kim Bao, Davide Rasella, Megan R. Gerecke

Since the publication of the reports by the Commission on Social Determinants of Health (CSDH), many research papers have documented inequities, explaining causal pathways in order to inform policy and programmatic decision-making. At the international level, the sustainable development goals (SDGs) reflect an attempt to bring together these themes and the complexities involved in defining a comprehensive development framework. However, to date, much less has been done to address the monitoring challenges, that is, how data generation, analysis and use are to become routine tasks.

Cost and impact of scaling up interventions to save lives of mothers and children: taking South Africa closer to MDGs 4 and 5

Global Health Action | Published: 20 January 2017.

Lumbwe Chola, Yogan Pillay, Peter Barron, Aviva Tugendhaft, Kate Kerber, Karen Hofman

South Africa has made substantial progress on child and maternal mortality, yet many avoidable deaths of mothers and children still occur. This analysis identifies priority interventions to be scaled up nationally and projects the potential maternal and child lives saved.

‘You must carry your wheelchair’ – barriers to accessing healthcare in a South African rural area

Global Health Action | Published: 20 January 2017.

Richard Vergunst, Leslie Swartz, Gubela Mji, Malcolm MacLachlan & Hasheem Mannan

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.

'You can't stay away from your family': a qualitative study of the ongoing ties and future plans of South African health workers in the United Kingdom

Global Health Action | Published: 20 January 2017.

Katherine Taylor, Claire Blacklock, Gail Hayward, Posy Bidwell, Pallavi Laxmikanth, Nicholas Riches, Merlin Willcox, Shabir Moosa & David Mant

Migration of African-trained health workers to countries with higher health care worker densities adds to the severe shortage of health personnel in many African countries. Policy initiatives to reduce migration levels are informed by many studies exploring the reasons for the original decision to migrate. In contrast, there is little evidence to inform policies designed to facilitate health workers returning home or providing other forms of support to the health system of their home country.

'Why do an MPH?' Motivations and intentions of physicians undertaking postgraduate public health training at the University of Cape Town

Global Health Action | Published: 20 January 2017.

Virginia E.M. Zweigenthal, Emma Marquez & Leslie London

Public health (PH) approaches underpin the management and transformation of health systems in low- and middle-income countries. Despite the Master of Public Health (MPH) rarely being a prerequisite for health service employment in South Africa, many physicians pursue MPH qualifications.

An evaluation of the competencies of primary health care clinic nursing managers in two South African provinces

Global Health Action | Published: 20 January 2017.

Pascalina O. Munyewende, Jonathan Levin & Laetitia C. Rispel

Managerial competencies to enhance individual and organisational performance have gained currency in global efforts to strengthen health systems. Competent managers are essential in the implementation of primary health care (PHC) reforms that aim to achieve universal health coverage.

Protecting the confidentiality and security of personal health information in low- and middle-income countries in the era of SDGs and Big Data

Global Health Action | Published: 20 January 2017.

Eduard J. Beck, Wayne Gill, Paul R. De Lay

As increasing amounts of personal information are being collected through a plethora of electronic modalities by statutory and non-statutory organizations, ensuring the confidentiality and security of such information has become a major issue globally. While the use of many of these media can be beneficial to individuals or populations, they can also be open to abuse by individuals or statutory and non-statutory organizations.

A realist review of mobile phone-based health interventions for non-communicable disease management in sub-Saharan Africa

BioMed Central | Published: 6 February 2017.

Daniel Opoku, Victor Stephani and Wilm Quentin

The prevalence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is increasing in sub-Saharan Africa. At the same time, the use of mobile phones is rising, expanding the opportunities for the implementation of mobile phone-based health (mHealth) interventions. This review aims to understand how, why, for whom, and in what circumstances mHealth interventions against NCDs improve treatment and care in sub-Saharan Africa.

Designing an optimal HIV programme for South Africa: Does the optimal package change when diminishing returns are considered?

BioMed Central | Published: 31 January 2017.

Calvin Chiu, Leigh F. Johnson, Lise Jamieson, Bruce A. Larson and Gesine Meyer-Rath

South Africa has a large domestically funded HIV programme with highly saturated coverage levels for most prevention and treatment interventions. To further optimise its allocative efficiency, we designed a novel optimisation method and examined whether the optimal package of interventions changes when interaction and non-linear scale-up effects are incorporated into cost-effectiveness analysis.

Prospects for HIV control in South Africa: a model-based analysis

Global Health Action | Published: 20 January 2017.

Leigh F. Johnson, Calvin Chiu, Landon Myer, Mary-Ann Davies, Rob E. Dorrington, Linda-Gail Bekker, Andrew Boulle & Gesine Meyer-Rath

The goal of virtual elimination of horizontal and mother-to-child HIV transmission in South Africa (SA) has been proposed, but there have been few systematic investigations of which interventions are likely to be most critical to reducing HIV incidence.

Comorbidities of HIV infection and health care seeking behavior among HIV infected patients attending public sector healthcare facilities in KwaZulu-Natal: A cross sectional study

PlosOne | Published: 2 February 2017.

Manimbulu Nlooto

HIV-infected people may present with co-infections, comorbidities, and side effects associated with antiretroviral therapy. This study explored the prevalence of comorbid health problems and determined the extent of the use of traditional medicine for treatment of co-infections, comorbidities of HIV infection and side effects.

Conspiracy beliefs and knowledge about HIV origins among adolescents in Soweto, South Africa

PlosOne | Published: 2 February 2017.

Robert Hogg, Busisiwe Nkala, Janan Dietrich, Alexandra Collins, Kalysha Closson, Zishan Cui, Steve Kanters, Jason Chia, Bernard Barhafuma, Alexis Palmer, Angela Kaida, Glenda Gray, Cari Miller

We examined adolescents' knowledge regarding the origin of HIV/AIDS and correlates of beliefs surrounding conspiracy theories in Soweto, South Africa. Now, a decade post-AIDS denialism, South Africa has the largest antiretroviral therapy roll-out worldwide. However, conspiracy theories stemming from past AIDS denialism may impact HIV prevention and treatment efforts.

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RECENT NEWS

United Nations' first high-level meeting on TB could usher in a new world order

Bhekisisa | 6 February 2017.

The global body heeds calls by SA health minister Aaron Motsoaledi for high-level meeting on age-old killer.

HPCSA president wants medical aids abolished as a 'crime against humanity'

Medical Brief | 8 February 2017.

Medical aid schemes are a 'crime against humanity' and should be abolished because they cannot co-exist with the National Health Insurance scheme, says SA Health Professions Council president Dr Kgosi Letlape.

Health-e: Our health system is collapsing under the burden of chronic disease

Daily Maverick | 6 February 2017.

Our cities have become hives of gluttonous consumption as South Africans embrace junk diets. Endocrinologist SUNDEEP RUDER despairs of the health impact and how hard it is to prevent lifestyle

diseases in the face of massive marketing campaigns that reach the tiniest rural villages.

Sugar tax could make SA a world leader in obesity prevention – WHO

Medical Brief | 8 February 2017.

South Africa could prevent almost half-a-million deaths over 40 years by introducing its proposed tax on sugary drinks, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Immunisation drive hailed as watershed for Africa as leaders target public health

The Guardian | 1 February 2017.

Heads of state at African Union summit approve universal immunisation push as new Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention is announced.

Weak rand hurts HIV/AIDS medicines leading to ARV shortage

BD Live | 3 February 2017.

The government spends R14.2bn on antiretrovirals from local pharmaceutical groups, but the weak rand is causing problems as ingredients are imported.

Students sold on self-testing for HIV

Times Live | 6 February 2017.

South African students, who make up one of the highest sexually active groups in society, would rather self-test at home for HIV than go to a health facility.

The deaths of the 94 – disgraceful neglect

Daily Maverick | 6 February 2017.

There is no question that if we had credible healthcare facility surveillance the alarm to intervene would have gone off a long time ago and a chain of command would have reacted to prevent the deaths of former Life Esidimeni inhabitants who had been moved to unsuitable facilities elsewhere.

PillDrop: Rural pharmacist's invention set to increase access to chronic medication

Health-E News | 8 February 2017.

A South African pharmacist's idea of revolutionising access to chronic medicines in rural areas has received the nod from an international panel in the global Sandoz Hack competition.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Global Observatory on Health R&D

WHO | Published: Ongoing.

The Global Observatory on Health R&D is a centralized and comprehensive source of information and analyses on global health R&D activities for human diseases global-level initiative that aims to help identify health R&D priorities based on public health needs.

WHO recommendations on antenatal care for a positive pregnancy experience

WHO | Published: 2016.

Endorsed, by the UN Secretary-General, this is a comprehensive WHO guideline on routine ANC for pregnant women and adolescent girls. It aims to complement existing WHO guidelines on the management of specific pregnancy-related complications. The guidance aims to capture the complex nature of the issues surrounding ANC health care practices and delivery, and to prioritize person-centred health and well-being, not only the prevention of death and morbidity, in accordance with a human rights-based approach.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Report into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of mentally ill patients: Gauteng Province

Office of the Health Ombud | Published: 1 February 2017.

The official investigation into the deaths of 94 mentally ill patients who were transferred from Life Esidimeni hospital to NGOs in the Gauteng Province. This Report is the work of teams: The Expert Panel, the Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) Inspectors and all the 73 individuals, families and relatives of the deceased, who gave evidence during the investigations.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

ESMO Summit Africa 2017 (European Society for Medical Oncology)

10-12 February 2017

Century City Conference Venue, Cape Town, South Africa

Addressing Health Inequities Conference

23-24 February 2017

Wits School of Public Health, Johannesburg, South Africa

SA AIDS

13-16 June 2017

Durban International convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Desmond Tutu HIV Foundation: Community Liaison Officer

Closing Date: 13 February 2017

mothers2mothers: Evaluation and Operations Research Specialist

Closing Date: 17 February 2017

EDC: Director of Monitoring and Evaluation

Closing Date: 17 February 2017

CareWorks: HCT District Coordinator

Closing Date: 28 February 2017

CareWorks: Performance Coordinator

Closing Date: 15 March 2017



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