



# HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

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## Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

### **The World Health Organization Policy on Global Women's Health: New Frontiers**

Harris J, Merialdi M, Merzagora F, Aureli F, Bustreo F. *Journal of Women's Health*. 2010 Nov, 19(11): 2115-2118.

This article reviews formal and informal mechanisms through which the World Health Organization is promoting policies for the advancement of women's health. Specific attention is given to select examples of innovative strategies the WHO has adopted in recent years to increase political commitment to women's and children's health and influence the development of policies supportive of country efforts to achieve Millennium Development Goals 4 and MDG 5 (to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health, respectively)....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089/jwh.2010.2101> [Accessed: 8 November 2010]

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### **Building Multisectoral Partnerships for Population Health and Health Equity**

Fawcett S, Schultz J, Watson-Thompson J, Fox M, Bremby R. *Prev Chronic Dis*. 2010;7(6).

Poor performance in achieving population health goals is well-noted — approximately 10% of public health measures tracked are met. Less well-understood is how to create conditions that produce these goals. This article examines some of the factors that contribute to this poor performance, such as lack of shared responsibility for outcomes, lack of cooperation and collaboration, and limited understanding of what works. ...[Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2010/nov/10\\_0079.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2010/nov/10_0079.htm) [Accessed: 8 November 2010].

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### **Prevention and management of chronic disease: a litmus test for health-systems strengthening in low-income and middle-income countries**

Samb B, Desai N, Nishtar S, Mendis S, Bekedam H, Wright A, et al. *The Lancet*. Early Online Publication. 2010 Nov 11.

National health systems need strengthening if they are to meet the growing challenge of chronic diseases in low-income and middle-income countries. By application of an accepted health-systems framework to the evidence, we report that the factors that limit countries' capacity to implement proven strategies for chronic diseases relate to the way in which health systems are designed and function. Substantial constraints are

apparent across each of the six key health-systems components of health financing, governance, health workforce, health information, medical products and technologies, and health-service delivery...[Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)61353-0/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)61353-0/fulltext) [Accessed: 11 November 2010]

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### **Quality of care offered to children attending primary health care clinics in Johannesburg**

*Thandrayen K, Saloojee H. SA Journal of Child Health. 2010; 4 (3): 73-77.*

Primary health care (PHC) and the health of young children are popular focus areas for international organisations, politicians, heads of state, policy-makers and health professionals alike. They are the subject of innumerable policy statements and plans. In South Africa, the national health department has undoubtedly prioritised PHC, particularly in its fiscal decisions. Indeed, free primary health care for young children was one of the first decrees of Nelson Mandela on assuming the presidency in 1994, and free primary care services were extended to the whole population by 1996. Unfortunately, there is limited evidence that this strategy has borne success...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.sajch.org.za/index.php/SAJCH/article/viewFile/260/189> [Accessed: 11 November 2010]

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## **Recent News**

### **Bridging the gap in South Africa**

*World Health Bulletin. Published: November 2010*

The South African government's proposed national insurance scheme aims to tackle the stark divide in health care between rich and poor. Prior to 2003, ARVs were not available in the public health system in South Africa, the country with the highest number of people with HIV/AIDS in the world. As a result, private patients could get the life-saving drugs and buy their survival while many patients in the public sector died. It is this stark public-private divide that the South African Government hopes its proposed National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme will deal with by providing universal access to health care "based on need rather than ability to pay"...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/11/10-021110/en/index.html> [Accessed: 11 November 2010]

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### **Stakeholders welcome new deputy health minister**

*Bua News. Published: 1 November 2010.*

South African Health stakeholders have welcomed the appointment of new Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Gwen Ramokgopa. Former Tshwane Mayor, Ramokgopa, is among the new deputy ministers and ministers being sworn-in. South African Medical Association Chairman, Norman Mabasa, said the association will work closely with Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi and Ramokgopa for the betterment of healthcare in this country. "We hope that the new deputy minister will take over where her predecessor has left off, Dr Ramokgopa has a long history in the health industry."...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.buanews.gov.za/rss/10/10110115051001> [Accessed: 8 November 2010]

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### **New one-roof policies on TB, HIV/AIDS 'are challenging'**

*Business Day. Published: 3 November 2010.*

Putting the government's new policies for integrating tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS care into practice was proving extremely challenging, the head of Cape Town municipality's HIV, TB and sexually transmitted infections unit, Dr Karen Jennings, said yesterday. Historically public health facilities have run separate programmes for TB and HIV/AIDS care. The new policy says services should now be provided under one roof, as many patients are infected with both diseases. HIV/AIDS attacks the immune system and increases susceptibility to other infections, including TB...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/Articles/Content.aspx?id=125631> [Accessed: 8 November 2010]

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### **Preventative TB therapy halves risk of death among ARV patients**

*PlusNews. Published: 11 November 2010.*

Preventative tuberculosis (TB) therapy can reduce death among patients on antiretroviral (ARV) treatment by about half, according to new research from South Africa. Based on an observational study, researchers found that patients newly initiated on ARV treatment who had also been given Isoniazid Preventative TB therapy (IPT) had about a 50 percent lower risk of death after their first year of treatment than patients not given IPT. Isoniazid is a standard first-line TB drug that has more commonly been given as preventative therapy to HIV-infected patients not yet eligible for ARVs...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=91055> [Accessed: 12 November 2010]

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## **Training and Resources**

**Sonke Gender Justice Network: HIV/AIDS, Gender Equality, Human Rights**

University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and Sonke Gender Justice Network announce the launch of the UCLA Law - Sonke Health & Human Rights Fellowship. Commencing in August 2011, the programme will provide specialised training to top graduates from South African law schools for careers as impact-oriented public interest lawyers in the areas of health, human rights, HIV prevention, and gender equality.

For more information: <http://www.genderjustice.org.za/hhrfellowship>

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### **Certificates in Humanitarian Policy & Practice**

*Johannesburg: University of Witwatersrand, School of Public & Development Management*

The certificates are intensive training programmes run by Wits University's Graduate School of Public & Development Management, in collaboration with Doctors Without Borders (MSF) and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine. The multi-disciplinary programmes take a regional focus on tackling humanitarian issues across Africa and are designed and taught by experts from leading Organisations and Academic Institutions such as ICRC, UNHCR, Oxfam, MSF, UNAIDS, and professors from LSTM and Wits University.

For more information: <http://www.msf.org.za/dynamicpages.php?p=78>

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### **Discussion Document: The Determination of Health Prices in the Private Sector**

*National Department of Health*

The purpose of this document is to stimulate debate and to elicit participation in this policy development process. Note that this document deals with two parallel but distinct processes. The first process is consultative in nature and seeks to arrive at the establishment of a healthcare price determination authority. It is clear from the details presented it would take at least three years before such a proposed authority could be operational. The second process aims to establish voluntary interim tariff negotiations led by a public authority. This process will commence after delineated exemption from certain provisions of the Competition Act has been obtained.

Source: <http://www.doh.gov.za/docs/psector-f.html>

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## **Reports and Publications**

### **National Antenatal Sentinel HIV and Syphilis Prevalence Survey in South Africa, 2009**

*Department of Health*

This report presents the HIV epidemic trend prevalence estimate among antenatal women in the age group 15 - 49 years. The purpose is to assess the HIV sero-prevalence amongst first time antenatal clinic attendees (seen as a particularly suitable "sentinel" group to represent most closely the HIV prevalence of the generally sexually active part of the population). The general objective is to determine the distribution of HIV and syphilis infection among pregnant women attending public health antenatal clinics by age, province and health district. The HIV prevalence results remain as one of the most important source of robust surveillance data to provide a basis for the projection estimation of the epidemic and measurement of HIV and AIDS impact in the general population...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://www.doh.gov.za/docs/hiv\\_syphilis2009-f.html](http://www.doh.gov.za/docs/hiv_syphilis2009-f.html) [Accessed: 12 November 2010]

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### **Universal Access: Right Here, Right Now**

*International AIDS Society*

This report looks to some of the principal coverage of universal access at the XVIII International AIDS Conference, including the data, publications and presentations which served to underscore where the international community now stands in reaching the vital commitment made in 2006. It aims to highlight key outcomes on universal access at the conference including Taking Stock of where we are now in terms of international access to treatment and prevention and the outcomes of the major international interventions. The report also underscores Current Challenges to Reaching Universal Access, including the current economic climate and donor retreat...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://www.iasociety.org/Web/WebContent/File/102080\\_IASY\\_UniversalAccessReport.pdf](http://www.iasociety.org/Web/WebContent/File/102080_IASY_UniversalAccessReport.pdf) [Accessed: 11 November 2010]

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### **Analysing Health Systems To Make Them Stronger**

*van Olmen J, Criel B, Van Damme W, Marchal B, Van Belle S, Kegels G, et al. Studies in Health Services Organisation & Policy; 2010.*

The attention for Health Systems and Health Systems Strengthening has re-emerged in the frontlines of global debate since several years. This document aims to clarify the authors' ideas and visions on HS development by presenting a framework for description and analysis. The book outlines a framework that can be used by anybody wishing to analyze and strengthen HSs and it elaborates a vision for discussion...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://www.strengtheninghealthsystems.be/doc/SHSO&P27\\_HS%20ANALYSIS\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.strengtheninghealthsystems.be/doc/SHSO&P27_HS%20ANALYSIS_FINAL.pdf) [Accessed: 11 November 2010]

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## Conferences

### The 3rd Peoples Health Assembly

Venue: Cape Town

URL: <http://www.phmovement.org/en>

Over the past several years, PHM Circles across the globe have made great strides toward the goal of Health for All Now, and PHA3 is an opportunity to take stock of all aspects of the movement. It will be an opportunity to analyze the current global health situation, celebrate strengths and accomplishments of PHM, and to strengthen the global network.

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### 6th PHASA 2010 Conference

29 November -1 December 2010, East London

URL: <http://www.phasa2010.org.za/>

Theme: Healthy environments, healthy people and public health advocacy

PHASA is a voluntary organisation of public health practitioners focusing on the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the improved functioning of South Africa's health care system. As an African public health association, we are committed to strengthening local and regional capacity in public health. We intend to use the conference both for networking and skills-building among public health practitioners.

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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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