



HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

14 May 2010

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Constitutional provisions for the right to health in east and southern Africa

Mulumba M, Kabanda D, Nassuna V (2010): *Constitutional provisions for the right to health in east and southern Africa; EQUINET Discussion Paper 81. Centre for Health, Human Rights and Development, Regional Network for Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET): Harare.*

The extent to which health rights are neglected or promoted is a major factor in the promotion of public health and health equity in Africa. As a result, health and human rights have been incorporated in international and regional human rights treaties and in national laws, policies and strategies. Central to the recognition of health rights is the incorporation of the right to health in the national Constitutions. This report presents a desk review of the constitutional provisions on the right to health in 14 countries in east and southern Africa (ESA) covered by EQUINET. This paper used the six core obligations as spelt out in General Comment 14 to assess the inclusion of the right to health in the constitutional provisions of the ESA countries...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.equinet africa.org/bibl/docs/Diss81%20ESAconstitution.pdf> Approximately: 163KB] [Accessed: 11 May 2010]

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Increasing access to health workers in underserved areas: a conceptual framework for measuring results

Huicho L, Dieleman M, Campbell J, Codjia L, Balabanova D, Dussault G, Dolea C. *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 2010, 88:357-363.
Published: 5 May 2010.

Health workers' willingness to practise in underserved areas, such as rural, remote or poor areas, is a recognised challenge in achieving equitable access to health services. Many countries have developed strategies to attract and retain qualified health workers in these areas. But the evidence on the successes or failures of such interventions is scarce and weak, and it is difficult to compare lessons and measure results from the few evaluations that are available. Seeking to address this gap, this paper proposes a conceptual framework to guide managers, policy-makers and evaluators in the assessment of interventions to increase access to health workers in underserved

areas. The framework aims to support all stages of policy development...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/bulletin/volumes/88/5/09-070920/en/index.html> [Accessed: 5 May 2010]

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A model linking clinical workforce skill mix planning to health and health care dynamics

Masnick K, McDonnell G. *Human Resources for Health* 2010, 8:11.

Published: 30 April 2010. .

In an attempt to devise a simpler computable tool to assist workforce planners in determining what might be an appropriate mix of health service skills, our discussion led us to consider the implications of skill mixing and workforce composition beyond the 'stock and flow' approach of much workforce planning activity. Taking a dynamic systems approach, we were able to address the interactions, delays and feedbacks that influence the balance between the major components of health and health care...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.human-resources-health.com/content/pdf/1478-4491-8-11.pdf> [Accessed: 10 May 2010]

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Recent News

Address by Zwelinzima Vavi, General Secretary of the Congress of South African Trade Unions at the launch of Section 27, May 7 2010, Johannesburg

Politicsweb. Published: 10 May 2010

Healthcare provision is a critical indicator of how far we are moving forward in transforming our nation. The ANC's election manifesto spelled out some of our achievements. Our free primary healthcare has expanded and 1 600 more clinics have been built. About 248 out of 400 public hospitals have been revitalised and refurbished.

The public antiretroviral therapy programme has enrolled more than 480 000 people living with HIV and Aids, making our programme amongst the best and most comprehensive in the world.

COSATU enthusiastically supports the HIV Counselling and Testing Campaign, launched by President Zuma on 25 April 2010. We must all work together to make sure it succeeds, that everyone is persuaded to get tested and all those needing antiretroviral treatment receive it.

But have we really fully implemented the promises made in Section 27, to give all South Africans equal access to healthcare? ... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.politicsweb.co.za/politicsweb/view/politicsweb/en/page71654?oid=175216&sn=Detail> [Accessed: 11 May 2010]

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Drug shortage in public sector

News24. Published: 12 May 2010

South Africa is experiencing a shortage of over 80 drugs in its public health sector, including flu vaccinations and medication for high blood pressure, according to experts. They say the severity varies from province to province and from hospital to hospital, depending on the leadership and skills levels of management. They blame the shortage on a number of factors, including a lack of trained pharmacists, an ineffective tendering process and the inability of some pharmaceutical companies to deliver drugs... [Read More »](#)

Source: http://www.health24.com/news/Health_care/1-918,56153.asp [Accessed: 12 May 2010]

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HCT campaign launched

Health-e. Published: 29 April 2010

The much-awaited HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaign was launched at the end of April. At the launch, President Jacob Zuma warned the hundreds of people who had braved the cold to listen to him speak that the outcome of an HIV test is a personal matter and that they can keep it a secret. Launching the campaign, the president of the country led by example in encouraging South Africans to test for HIV in a massive effort to have 15 million citizens tested over the next year... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=2003276> [Accessed: 7 May 2010]

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More scrutiny for early ART

Health-e. Published: 12 May 2010

Health activists have warned against early introduction of antiretroviral (ARV) treatment in the absence of evidence based scientific research. The warning came after the United States treatment guidelines (updated in December last year) recommended that patients be started on treatment when their CD4 counts (measure of their immunity) fall below 500. Current World Health Organization guidelines recommend for ART initiation at CD4 counts less than 350. The activist group including the Treatment Action Campaign, INSIGHT Community Advisory Board and HIV i-Base said there was currently no data on the advantages and risks of initiation at 500... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=2003278> [Accessed: 12 May 2010]

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New children's medicine guide released by UNICEF and WHO

World Health Organization. Published: 29 April 2010.

A new publication that lists medicines formulated for children is being made available online by UNICEF and the World Health Organization, to help doctors and organizations obtain some of the 240 essential medicines that can save the lives of children. This one-of-its-kind publication will be useful for organizations and personnel involved in procurement to identify where medicines may be found and what they cost," said Hans Hogerzeil, Director Essential Medicines and Pharmaceutical Policies at WHO.... [Read More »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/notes/2010/children_medicine_20100429/en/index.html [Accessed: 10 May 2010]

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Primary healthcare is critical

Health24. Published: 3 May 2010

Many of the aims and principles guiding the proposed National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) date back to the Gluckman Commission of the 1940s, chairperson of the Hospital Association of South Africa (HASA) Dr Nkaki Matlala, told delegates at the association's annual conference in Sun City.... [Read More »](#)

Source: http://www.health24.com/news/Health_care/1-918,55980.asp [Accessed: 13 May 2010]

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Reports

Better care for newborns crucial for Millennium Development Goal on child deaths

World Health Organization. Published: 10 May 2010.

Improving newborn care in the first month of life is essential for reducing child deaths in developing countries, according to a global update on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) released in the World Health Statistics 2010. Globally, about 40% of deaths in children under five years old are estimated to occur in the first month of life, most of which occur in the first week. For the first time, this report provides the major causes of these deaths among newborns. The report also shows that deaths among children under five have dropped by 30% from 12.5 million in 1990 to 8.8 million in 2008. [Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/EN_WHS10_Full.pdf (Approximately: 4.84KB) [Accessed: 12 May 2010]

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General household survey, 2009

StatsSA. Published: 6 May 2010.

This report presents the results of the General Household Survey (GHS) conducted annually by Statistics South Africa. The survey collects information on a variety of subjects including education, health, the labour market, dwellings, access to services and facilities, transport, and quality of life. [Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.statssa.gov.za/publications/P0318/P0318June2009.pdf> (Approximately: 1233KB) [Accessed: 10 May 2010].

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Publications

Where there are no pharmacists

Sarah Andersson and Beverley Snell. Published: 2010.

Where there are no pharmacists is about managing medicines. It explains how to order them, store them, prepare them, dispense them and use them safely and effectively. This book provides advice on all these aspects for people working with medicines as well as information to help communities benefit from the use of medicines. It provides guidance for anyone who is doing the work of a pharmacist; anyone who sells, dispenses, prepares, manages, or explains to others how to use medicines. . [Click here for more info and to order »](#)

Source: <http://www.twinside.org.sg/title2/books/HAI.html> [Accessed: 6 May 2010]

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International Migration of Health Workers: improving international co-operation to address the global health workforce crisis

Joint OECD/WHO Policy Brief.

In 2006, the World Health Organization estimated that there was a shortage of more than 4.3 million health personnel across the world. Low-income countries were particularly hard-hit by shortages: of the 57 countries with a critical shortage, 36 were sub-Saharan African countries. Because the international migration of doctors and nurses has become increasingly visible, it is often seen as the main culprit behind these shortages. This has led to a polarized debate between the negative aspects of migration and the individual rights of health personnel to leave any country

including their own. [Click Here for more info »](#)

Source: <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/8/1/44783473.pdf> (Approximately: 604KB) [Accessed: 7 May 2010]

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Conferences

2nd Tuberculosis Conference

1-4 June 2010. ICC Durban, South Africa

URL: <http://www.tbconference.co.za>

The 2nd SA TB Conference in Durban, South Africa from 1 to 4 June 2010 will focus on partnerships and how solidarity among the state, private sector and civil society at all levels and structures can increase access to services and prevent people dying from a curable disease. Forging Strategic Partnerships to Fight TB and HIV is the theme for this Conference, which will build on the awareness and commitment made by 1657 people that contributed to the success of the 1st SA TB Conference in 2008.

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Training and Resources

Health Equity and Prevention Primer

Prevention Institute

The Health Equity and Prevention Primer (HEPP) serves as a web-based training series for public health practitioners and advocates interested in policy advocacy, community change, and multi-sector engagement to achieve health equity. The Primer helps practitioners integrate a health equity lens into their initiatives in pursuit of overall health and safety. The training series include 7 modules as well as strategy, partnership and focus areas tools.

Source: <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/tools/focus-area-tools/health-equity-toolkit.html>

[Accessed: 7 May 2010]

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Health systems management and leadership strengthening handbook

World Economic Forum

The World Economic Forum has launched an online handbook for Health Systems Management and Leadership Strengthening. It provides strategic guidance to ministries of health, or other ministries in sub-Saharan Africa, interested in implementing a programme to build leadership and management capacities within their institution, and in doing so, contributing towards strengthening the overall health system.

Source: <http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/globalhealth/Library/ManagementandLeadershipHandbook/index.htm>

[Accessed: 5 May 2010]

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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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