



HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

15 April 2011

Dear HST Bulletin Subscribers,

We will be taking a break for the next few weeks. Please look out for the next HST Bulletin which will be published on 13 May 2011.

Regards,
HST Bulletin Editorial Team

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Explaining household socio-economic related child health inequalities using multiple methods in three diverse settings in South Africa

Lungiswa L Nkonki, Mickey Chopra, Tanya M Doherty, Debra Jackson and Bjarne Robberstad. *International Journal for Equity in Health* 2011, 10:13. Published: 4 April 2011.

Despite free healthcare to pregnant women and children under the age of six, access to healthcare has failed to secure better child health outcomes amongst all children of the country. There is growing evidence of a socioeconomic gradient on child health outcomes. The objectives of this study were to measure inequalities in child mortality, HIV transmission and vaccination coverage within a cohort of infants in South Africa....[Read More](#)

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Source: <http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/10/1/13/abstract> [Accessed: 14 April 2011]

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Nutritional status and HIV in rural South African children

Elizabeth W Kimani-Murage, Shane A Norris, John M Pettifor, Stephen M Tollman, Kerstin Klipstein-Grobusch, Xavier F Gómez-Olivé, David B Dunger and Kathleen Kahn. BMC Pediatrics 2011, 11:23. Published: 25 March 2011.

Achieving the Millennium Development Goals that aim to reduce malnutrition and child mortality depends in part on the ability of governments/policymakers to address nutritional status of children in general and those infected or affected by HIV/AIDS in particular. This study describes HIV prevalence in children, patterns of malnutrition by HIV status and determinants of nutritional status...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2431/11/23> [Accessed: 14 April 2011]

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Female gender predicts lower access and adherence to antiretroviral therapy in a setting of free healthcare

Christine Tapp, M-j Milloy, Thomas Kerr, Ruth Zhang, Silvia Guillemi, Robert S. Hogg, Julio Montaner and Evan Wood. BMC Infectious Diseases 2011, 11:86. Published: 6 April 2011.

Barriers to HIV treatment among injection drug users (IDU) are a major public health concern. However, there remain few long-term studies investigating key demographic and behavioral factors - and gender differences in particular - that may pose barriers to antiretroviral therapy (ART), especially in settings with universal healthcare. We evaluated access and adherence to ART in a long-term cohort of HIV-positive IDU in a setting where medical care and antiretroviral therapy are provided free of charge through a universal healthcare system....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2334/11/86/abstract> [Accessed: 14 April 2011]

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Lancet Series: Still Births

Launched in London, New York, Hobart, Geneva, New Delhi, Florence, and Cape Town on April 14, 2011.

Around 2.6 million stillbirths occur each year. Although 98% of these deaths take place in low-income and middle-income countries, stillbirths also continue to affect wealthier nations, with around 1 in every 300 babies stillborn in high-income countries. The Series highlights the rates and causes of stillbirth globally, explores cost-effective interventions to prevent stillbirths (as well as maternal and neonatal deaths), and sets key actions to halve stillbirth rates by 2020. Also included are comments from professional organisations and parent groups, the latter demonstrating the unique tragedy for families of the birth of a baby bearing no signs of life...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.thelancet.com/series/stillbirth> [Accessed: 15 April 2011]

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Trends in lung cancer mortality in South Africa: 1995-2006

Braimoh Bello, Olufolawajimi Fadahun, Danuta Kielkowski and Gill Nelson. BMC Public Health 2011, 11:209. Published: 4 April 2011.

Cancer remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide. In developing countries, data on lung cancer mortality are scarce. Using South Africa's annual mortality and population estimates data, [the study] calculated lung cancer age-standardised mortality rates for the period 1995 to 2006...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/11/209> [Accessed: 14 April 2011]

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Health-systems strengthening: current and future activities

Jesper Sundewall, R Chad Swanson, Arvind Betigeri, David Sanders, Ta E Collins, George Shakarishvili, Ruairi Brugha. The Lancet, Vol 377, Issue 9773, 9 April 2011.

There is strong consensus in the global health community, among donors, recipient countries, and policy makers, about the need for health-system strengthening in low-income and middle-income countries. First, there is lack of consensus on what health-system strengthening means, and consequently on how it should be done and evaluated. As a result, efforts in health-system strengthening are fragmented. Some commentators are enthusiastic about WHO's building-blocks model. Others have proposed to identify synergies for converging multiple frameworks. Consensus on health-system strengthening requires recognition of the constraints on major donors accountability to domestic taxpayers, domestic media, and legal frameworks which lead them to establish parallel systems from priority setting through to monitoring and evaluation...[Read More »](#)

Source: [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(10\)60679-4/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60679-4/fulltext) [Accessed: 15 April 2011]

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Recent News

US project planning to sterilise HIV+ women in SA

Anso Thom, Health-e. Published: 11 April 2011

A controversial US project that pays drug users and alcoholics to undergo sterilisation or long-term contraception, is setting its sights on women living with HIV in South Africa. Founder of Project Prevention Barbara Harris has confirmed that they were making plans to offer similar services to women living with HIV in South Africa as well as drug users. "We have had huge interest in South Africa from organisations and concerned citizens," said Harris, adding that they would be joining forces with local non-governmental organisations. However, Professor Eddie Mhlanga, Chief Director for Maternal, Child and Women's Health in the health department said they would approach the Human Rights Commission if the project started operating in South Africa. He also warned that doctors found co-operating with the organisation in any medical interventions would be reported to the Health Professions Council of South Africa...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033141> [Accessed: 15 April 2011]

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HIV/AIDS: Straight Talk with Stephen Lewis

PlusNews. Published: 11 April 2011.

A former politician, diplomat and aid worker, few people have witnessed the fight against HIV from as many international vantage points as former UN Special Envoy for AIDS in Africa, Stephen Lewis. Now co-director of the international advocacy organization, AIDS-Free World, Lewis spoke to IRIN/PlusNews about the direction of the international response to HIV.... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=92439> [Accessed: 13 April 2011]

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Overhaul for ailing EC health

TimesLive. Published: 14 April 2011.

The beleaguered Eastern Cape Health Department will over the next two months undergo major facelifts in the hope of drastically improving health services to the poor and its tarnished image. One of the first institutions to be effected by the change, first mentioned by Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi in 2009, is the East London Hospital Complex - the Frere and Cecilia Makiwane hospitals....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.timeslive.co.za/local/article1021780.ece/Overhaul-for-ailing-EC-health> [Accessed: 15 April 2011]

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Minister reacts to nursing compact

Khopotso Bodibe. Health-e News. Published: 9 April 2011.

A crucial meeting between the nursing profession and the Health Department ended on a high note in Johannesburg, this week. The meeting sought to address deficiencies of a profession that is despised by many South Africans who receive nursing care in government health facilities...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033142> [Accessed: 13 April 2011]

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World Health Day: Combat drug resistance: no action today means no cure tomorrow

Statement by WHO Director-General, Dr Margaret Chan. Published: 7 April 2011.

When the first antibiotics were introduced in the 1940s, they were hailed as "wonder drugs", the miracles of modern medicine.... The powerful impact of these medicines sparked a revolution in the discovery of new drugs. The human condition took a dramatic turn for the better, with significant jumps in life expectancy. The message on this World Health Day is loud and clear. The world is on the brink of losing these miracle cures...[Read More »](#)

Source: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/statements/2011/whd_20110407/en/index.html [Accessed: 12 April 2011]

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HIV/AIDS: Five ways to improve adherence to ARVs

PlusNews. Published: 13 April 2011.

Antiretroviral treatment has given millions of people around the world - six million at last count - a new lease on life. However, less-than-strict adherence undermines the efficacy of the drugs. Some common reasons for failing to stick to ARV regimens include: side-effects; insufficient food; long distances and high transport costs to and from drug collection points; forgetting to take them; stigma and fear of disclosure of one's status and spending time away from home. Adherence is crucial to preventing the huge expense of putting patients on second- and third-line HIV treatment...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/report.aspx?ReportID=92463> [Accessed: 15 April 2011]

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5th BEMF meeting: BEMF urges government to take decisive action to resolve the crisis of funding for health care

Section 27. Published: 13 April 2011.

The 5th meeting of the Budget and Expenditure Monitoring Forum heard that funding for public health care in the Eastern Cape and Gauteng were in crisis and discussed what needs to be done to resolve many of its causes...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.section27.org.za/2011/04/13/5th-bemf-meeting-analysis-of-the-eastern-cape-and-gauteng-health-budgets/> [Accessed: 14 April 2011]

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Training and Resources

e-Forum on youth sexual and reproductive health in humanitarian emergencies

Interagency Youth Working Group

The Interagency Youth Working Group (IYWG) is hosting an online forum, Untapped potential: Working with youth to meet their sexual and reproductive health needs in humanitarian emergencies, April 19th through April 21st. Facilitated by experts in the field, the forum will give participants an opportunity to discuss this topic and to ask questions about the Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Toolkit for Humanitarian Settings (Save the Children and UNFPA), a companion to the Inter-agency Field Manual on Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Settings (Inter-agency Working Group on Reproductive Health in Crises). An e-learning course on this subject has also been released by UNFPA and Save the Children.

More information: http://www.iywg.org/youth/forums/humanitarian_settings

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United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund

2011 Small Grants Facility (SGF)

Reflecting the current financial status of the Fund, and the desire to quickly ensure that available funding was passed onto victims, the Board unanimously agreed to the establishment of the 2011 Small Grants Facility (SGF). The SGF aims to provide tangible support, through established channels, to victims of trafficking in persons. The 2011 Small Grants Facility will accept project proposals from eligible not-for-profit, non-governmental organizations (NGOs). NGOs can submit applications on behalf of a coalition (more than 4 organizations), a consortium (minimum of 2 other organizations and a maximum of 4), but the NGO will be the primary focal point and will be financially responsible for the delivery of the grant.

More information: http://www.wunrn.com/news/2011/03_11/03_21/032111_call.htm

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Toolkit on women's rights and freedom of information

African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)

'Freedom of Information and Women's Rights in Africa' is a toolkit guide published by the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) with the support of UNESCO. The book provides guidance for women's organisations in Africa on how to organise around freedom of information. It has compiled five case studies from five African countries, namely, Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Zambia under different scenarios.

More information: http://www.peacewomen.org/portal_advocacy_item.php?id=40

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World Health Day celebrated with Health TV launch

Media Update. Published: 14 April 2011

Isilumko Media and the City of Johannesburg celebrated World Health Day on 7 April at the OR Tambo Clinic in Diepsloot with the launch of Health TV, a new media platform that will flight essential health messages to clinic visitors in the Greater Johannesburg area. In line with the World Health Organization's constitution, Health TV supports its main objective, "The attainment, by all people, of the highest possible level of health."

More information: <http://mediaupdate.co.za/?IDStory=36289>

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Reports and Publications

World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development

UNFPA and the Center for Reproductive Rights. Published: 2011

This briefing paper examines the right to access contraceptive information and services for women and adolescents. It provides practical guidance for activists, scholars, UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, governments and other actors working in the area of sexual and reproductive health to integrate human rights into programmes and policies on contraceptive information and services...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://wdr2011.worldbank.org/fulltext> [Accessed: 14 April 2011]

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Gender, Media, Diversity and Change: Taking Stock

Deborah Walter. The Southern Africa Media and Diversity Journal, Issue 9. Published: 24 March 2011.

When results of the 2010 Gender and Media Progress Study (GMPS) were first released, many Southern African gender and media activists expressed frustration at the slow rate of progress in the region. Coming seven years after the original Gender and Media Baseline Study (GMBS), one figure that was of particular concern was the marginal increase of women's sources from 17% to 19% in the region's news. Looking back at years of advocacy, training, and campaigning, there was a seemingly collective sigh of, "Is that it?" The GEM Summit, and this edition of the journal, is produced within the context of the 2015 deadline set by the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development, which calls for gender parity within the media, as well as equal voice and fair treatment of women and men in editorial content. Along with this important deadline, other events added impetus to the gender and media movement...[Click Here for Full Report](#) »

Source: <http://www.genderlinks.org.za/article/the-southern-africa-media-and-diversity-journal-issue-9-2011-03-24>
[Accessed: 12 April 2011]

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WHO Social Determinants of Health Discussion Paper Series: Debates, Policy & Practice, Case Studies

World Health Organization, Department of Ethics, Equity, Trade and Human Rights

The Department of Ethics, Equity, Trade and Human Rights of WHO is pleased to announce the launch of a WHO publication series devoted to the social determinants of health. The series will explore themes related to strategy, governance, tools and capacity building for addressing the social determinants of health to improve health equity. Papers will also include reviews of country experiences. The first set of papers can be downloaded:

- No 1. Action on the Social Determinants of Health: learning from previous experiences available at: <http://bit.ly/i6yU3w> [Accessed: 14 April 2011]
- No 2. A Conceptual Framework for Action on the Social Determinants of Health available at: <http://bit.ly/hhFPdW> [Accessed: 14 April 2011]
- No 3. Monitoring Social Well-being to Support Policies on the Social Determinants of Health: the case of New Zealand's "Social Reports/Te Purongo Oranga Tangata" available at: <http://bit.ly/eadqns> [Accessed: 14 April 2011]

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Conferences

The 7th PHASA Conference: "Closing the health equity gap: Public health leadership, education and practice"

Date: 28-30 November 2011. Sandton Conventions Centre, Gauteng, South Africa.

The theme of our 2011 conference is "Closing the health equity gap: Public health leadership, education and practice". The theme will enable us to review the progress that South Africa has made in achieving equity in health status, health care, the social determinants of health and access to resources. The Public Health 2011 Conference is now calling for abstracts. Authors should submit abstracts online by no later than 4 July 2011.

More information: <http://www.phasaconference.org.za>

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The Third Biennial SAMEA Conference

Date: 5-9 September 2011, Johannesburg

SAMEA, in collaboration with the Public Service Commission (PSC), hosts the Third Biennial South African Monitoring and Evaluation Conference.

More information: <http://www.samea.org.za/>

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1st International HIV Social Science and Humanities Conference

Date: 11 – 13 June 2011, ICC Durban, South Africa

The social scientific and humanities contributions towards HIV research and action will be brought together in this first-of-its-kind conference. This conference will aim to provide a forum for those keen to extend the scope of the social sciences and its capacity to trace connections between all kinds of phenomenon, notably those that contribute to the complexity and changing nature of the epidemic.

More information: <http://www.iaohss.org/>

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World Conference on Social Determinants of Health

Date: 19-21 October 2011, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

The aim of the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health is to bring Member States and other actors together to catalyze high level political support for national policies to address social determinants of health to reduce health inequities. The Conference will serve as a catalyst for the coordination of efforts by national governments, international agencies, academic institutions and civil society organizations in the fight against health inequities. 800 participants are expected, including delegates from health and other sectors, Civil society organizations, academics, the private sector and representatives from WHO and other UN and international agencies. Participation will be by invitation only.

More information: http://www.who.int/social_determinants/events/world_conference_2011/en/index.html

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Job Opportunities

Health Systems Trust: Senior Researcher

Closing Date: 26 April 2011

We have a vacancy in the organisation for a Senior Researcher. This is a one-year contract position, which is renewable based on funding and performance. The successful candidate will undertake and manage research projects in line with the organisations goal of building equitable, effective and efficient national health systems in South Africa and the region, through the implementation and strengthening of functional health districts.

A detailed CV with names and contact details of at least three referees (with email addresses) should be sent to the Human Resources Department, Health Systems Trust, P.O. Box 808, Durban, 4000 (Fax: 031-266 9199, E-mail: hr@hst.org.za). Enquiries: Please direct all queries to rene@hst.org.za or ronel@hst.org.za.

For more information: <http://www.hst.org.za/news/20042016>

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AIDS Foundation of South Africa: Programme Coordinator

Closing Date: 20 April 2011

The AIDS Foundation of South Africa (AFSA) is an AIDS NGO and funding agency seeking to identify and develop initiatives which reduce the impact of AIDS in under-resourced communities. AFSA acts as an interface between donors and community-based organisations (CBOs) and NGOs working in the HIV and AIDS sector, placing donor funds with strategically selected organisations and providing them with ongoing mentoring, technical support and capacity building. AFSA seeks to appoint a Programmes Coordinator, based in Durban, to work within its Grants Department.

More information: <http://www.sangonet.org.za/opportunity/aids-foundation-south-africa-programme-coordinator>

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