

HST Bulletin\_16 September 2022

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## CATEGORIES

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## ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

### **A community mobilisation intervention to improve engagement in HIV testing, linkage to care, and retention in care in South Africa, a cluster-randomised control trial**

*The Lancet HIV | September 2022*

*Sheri A Lippman, Audrey Pettifor, Mi-Suk Kang Dufour, Chodziwadziwa Whiteson Kabudula, Rhian Twine, et al.*

This study adds to what is known about addressing social barriers to care through community mobilisation. Community mobilisation has at its core the building of community social resources to address inequities, disparities, and injustices, and for communities to build their own responses to health, in this case HIV care. We believe that sustained improvements in HIV outcomes will require a purposeful emphasis on broad community capacity building, as community-wide improvements owing to social change have the potential to be sustained beyond the project period. Community mobilisation programming is complementary to large initiatives aiming to improve and facilitate access to care and should be integrated into future initiatives to change the landscape of the HIV epidemic.

### **The sexual and reproductive health needs of young people living with HIV in Gauteng, South Africa**

*Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | 6 September 2022*

*Bandile Ndlazi and Thembekile Masango*

In 2021 it was estimated South Africa had 8.2 million people living with HIV. The HIV programme has made significant progress in South Africa, providing strong support for prevention, treatment, and care of those affected and infected. Almost 5.2 million people have been enrolled in the antiretroviral therapy (ART) programme and were receiving treatment in 2019. Availability of paediatric and adult ART has enabled the reduction of vertical transmission to less than 1% and the survival into adolescence and adulthood of many. A mathematical model study suggests approximately 400 000 children and adolescents are living with HIV in South Africa; this is attributed to high maternal HIV prevalence, but attenuated by the impact of ART through the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission programmes. The growth in numbers of children and adolescents living with HIV continues to create a gap in the

parental understanding of their sexual and reproductive health (SRH) dynamics, which eventually has a negative effect on health-seeking behaviour and accessing of health services. As most young people living with HIV (YPLHIV) enter childbearing age, a clear understanding of their SRH needs, including dating, sex, contraception, condom usage, consensual partner serostatus disclosure and sexual practices is required, as is further exploration to devise effective interventions and develop focused guidelines.

### **When law and science part ways: the criminalization of breastfeeding by women living with HIV**

*SAGE journals | 8 September 2022*

*Alison Symington, Nyasha Chingore-Munazvo and Svitlana Moroz*

Stigma and discrimination are a constant reality for the 37.7 million people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) around the globe. Fear over vertical transmission has fuelled HIV criminalization: laws that target people living with HIV for acts deemed to be a transmission risk. Research has now shown that many of these behaviours, including breastfeeding, pose an extremely low risk of transmission when people have proper medical care, access to treatment and open relationships with medical professionals. Yet, we are witnessing a wave of criminal cases against women living with HIV for breastfeeding, an act which is actively promoted worldwide as the best infant feeding strategy. In this review, we will place the criminalization of breastfeeding within the context of current medical recommendations and cultural views of breastfeeding. We will highlight the criminal cases against women living with HIV for breastfeeding around the globe and the criteria for justifiable criminalization. Finally, we will provide recommendations for moving towards decriminalization, removing this barrier to HIV prevention, treatment and care.

### **The effectiveness of lifestyle interventions on type 2 diabetes and gestational diabetes incidence and cardiometabolic outcomes: A systematic review and meta-analysis of evidence from low- and middle-income countries**

*eClinical Medicine | 9 September 2022*

*Diana Sagastume, Irene Siero, Elly Mertens, James Cottam, Chiara Colizzi, et al.*

Diabetes represents a major public health burden worldwide. In 2021, the International Diabetes Federation (IDF) estimated the global diabetes prevalence, including type 1 and 2, to be 11% among adults (20-79 years) of which 81% reside in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Similarly, the IDF reported an overall prevalence of gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) of 13%, also with a vast majority of cases occurring in LMICs. Current projections for 2045 show a growth of 16% in the prevalence of diabetes (94% of cases in LMICs), in association with the increasing trend in obesity, driven by the epidemiological and nutritional transitions. In high-income countries (HICs), interventions aiming at improving lifestyle, widely known as diabetes prevention programmes, have become the standard for effective strategies to prevent the onset of T2D by instilling weight management and optimal dietary and physical activity habits. Recent results evaluating lifestyle interventions in HICs have reported overall reductions of 22% and 23% in the risk for T2D and GDM, respectively. However, the generalisation of these promising findings to settings other than HICs remains uncertain. Besides, evidence about the impact of lifestyle interventions is often limited to a specific type of setting, interventions or outcomes, or includes few studies. Also, frequently, the interventions are not assessed for the use of multi-target and multi-component strategies, known as the most effective approaches for lifestyle behaviour modifications and the prevention of T2D.

### **Living with tuberculosis: a qualitative study of patients' experiences with disease and treatment**

*BMC Public Health | 10 September 2022*

*Juliet Addo, Dave Pearce, Marilyn Metcalf, Courtney Lundquist, Gillian Thomas, et al.*

Tuberculosis (TB) is a communicable infectious disease affecting around one quarter of the world's population. The 'BRICS' countries of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa account for 47% of the total number of TB cases annually. Caused by the bacillus *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*, around 5–10% of those infected will develop active disease. In 2019, 10 million new active cases and 1.4 million deaths were reported. In 2020, the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic severely impacted the reporting of new cases and impeded diagnosis and treatment. Treatment for multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) also declined by 15% (from 177,100 in 2019 to 150,359 in 2020), with only about a third of patients who needed this treatment obtaining access. Ambitious targets to end the TB epidemic by 2035 were

established in 2015 by the WHO's End TB Strategy, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. In 2018, a United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis resulted in a Political Declaration on Tuberculosis, committing to end TB globally by 2030. Achieving these goals requires more equitable deployment of existing measures, and the development of new tools for TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Progress towards ending TB also demands that interventions are aligned to patients' experiences and address the challenges that they face.

### **Attribution of country level foodborne disease to food group and food types in three African countries: Conclusions from a structured expert judgment study**

*Plos Neglected Tropical Diseases* | 12 September 2022

*Amanda Sapp, Mirna Amaya, Arie Havelaar and Gabriela Nane*

Infections of humans by enteric pathogens can occur through various transmission routes including food, water, air, soil, human-to-human contact, and animal-to-human contact. Due to these various pathways, burden estimates of foodborne disease are challenging. The Foodborne Disease Burden Epidemiology Reference Group (FERG) was established by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2007 with the aim to develop the first worldwide estimates of the burden of foodborne disease on a sub-regional level. Subregions were based on the official grouping of WHO Member States. FERG further subdivided each region into subregions based on child and adult mortality as described by [1]: very low child and adult mortality (stratum A), low child mortality and very low adult mortality (stratum B), low child mortality and high adult mortality (stratum C), high child and adult mortality (stratum D), and high child mortality and very high adult mortality (stratum E). Burkina Faso was assigned to the Africa Region (AFR), stratum D (AFRD) and Ethiopia and Rwanda to AFR, stratum E (AFRE).

### **Rural–urban differences in breast and colorectal cancer screening among US women, 2014–2019**

*Remote and Rural Health* | 12 September 2022

*Theodoropoulos N, Xie H, Wang Q, Wen C, Li Y*

Prior research has revealed rural populations have lower rates of breast and colorectal cancer screening compared to their urban counterparts in the USA. An increasing number of rural hospitals have closed, with rural residents reporting skipping diagnosing imaging and preventative care due to a lack of access. Considering increasing rural hospital closures, this study investigated disparities in breast and colorectal cancer screening between urban and rural women in the USA.

### **Point-of-care HIV diagnosis for infants: the outcomes we need to achieve**

*The Lancet* | 17 September 2022

*Karl-Günter Technau, Ahmad Haeri Mazanderani*

Caring for infants and young children living with HIV remains a reality for many families. Despite decades of work leading to a substantial reduction in vertical transmission rates, the stark reality of poor and often late access to HIV diagnosis and subsequent antiretroviral therapy (ART) remains an issue. This is especially true in the African region, where 90% of all HIV-exposed infants reside. 150 000 children aged 0–9 years acquire HIV globally each year, but less than two-thirds access early infant testing services.

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## **RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS**

### **The global picture of Tuberculosis: A view from WHO**

*Open Access Government* | 8 September 2022

Dr Michel Gasana, TB Medical Officer, World Health Organization (WHO) – Regional Office for Africa, spoke with Open Access Government to provide an update on the global picture of Tuberculosis (TB). While TB mainly affects adults in their most productive years, we also find out how it impacts children. We learn why TB is particularly difficult to diagnose in children and about the Xpert MTB/RIF assay, generally available to assist with the diagnosis of paediatric TB. Further into this in-depth interview, Dr Gasana walks us through how TB is treated and how WHO Africa responds to this bacterial infection. Finally, we discover how COVID-19 has affected the TB response in the continent.

### **Opinion: Mothers and babies pay the price for medical xenophobia**

*Spotlight | 8 September 2022*

At SECTION27, we often engage with pregnant women and young children being denied access to healthcare services at hospitals in Gauteng. This is despite that providing free health services to vulnerable categories of persons, like pregnant women and young children, is one of the key tenets of equitable access to healthcare services. In fact, it is a core determinant of priority health outcomes, such as reducing maternal and child disease and death. Pregnant women and young children have special health needs.

## **CDC report shows people with monkeypox have higher than expected rates of HIV and STIs**

*News Medical Life Science | 12 September 2022*

In a recent study published in Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, researchers investigated the prevalence of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and other recent sexually transmitted infection (STI) diagnoses among persons with monkeypox. The current outbreak of monkeypox, caused by the monkeypox virus belonging to the same family of viruses as the smallpox virus, has a high incidence rate among persons who are gay and bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). Previous outbreaks of the disease in Nigeria showed associations between HIV infections and poor clinical outcomes during concurrent monkeypox infections. This highlights the need to understand the association of HIV and other STIs with the clinical outcomes of monkeypox so that public health decisions regarding vaccination and treatment can prioritize the high-risk groups.

## **Tuberculosis Affects More Men Globally — But Women Feel More of a Social Impact**

*Global Citizen | 12 September 2022*

When it comes to tuberculosis (TB), men and boys bear the highest disease burden, accounting for 64% of all TB cases in 2020. But this single statistic does not capture the full impact of the disease. TB, which is caused by bacteria that most often affect the lungs, is the second leading infectious killer after COVID-19. In 2020, an estimated 10 million people fell ill with TB worldwide, and 1.5 million people died from the disease. While men are nearly twice as likely to become infected with TB compared to women, women are more likely to face life-altering stigma for being TB-positive. "Women need differentiated support," Amrita Daftary, a social and behavioral global health researcher at York University in Toronto, told Global Citizen. "We're at a stage where we know what the challenges are when it comes to women, stigma, and TB. We now have to move to action."

## **AI Detects Tuberculosis from X-rays**

*Psychology Today | 12 September 2022*

Artificial intelligence (AI) deep learning is a rising tool to assist clinicians in disease detection and diagnosis. A new study by researchers at Google Health have demonstrated how AI deep learning can spot pulmonary tuberculosis (TB) on chest radiographs as well as human radiologists. The human brain and neuroscience have inspired concepts and methods used in artificial intelligence. The architecture of artificial intelligence deep learning is somewhat inspired by the human brain and biological cognition. The "deep" in deep learning refers to the many processing layers consisting of many nodes that are analogous to artificial neurons. As information passes through the layers, the weights of nodes are adjusted.

## **'Time to put ideas into action' in the fight against HIV/Aids, says Durban mayor**

*IOL | 12 September 2022*

EThekweni mayor Mxolisi Kaunda called for more co-operation in the fight against HIV/Aids and appealed for ideas put forward to combat the scourge to be put into action. Kaunda was addressing the eThekweni District Aids Council. He called for communities, civil society organisations, government and the private sector to work together to reverse the scourge of HIV/Aids.

## **TB, HIV, and Malaria Treatment Rebound to Near Pre-Pandemic Levels, But Still Off Course**

*Health Policy Watch | 12 September 2022*

The number of people on tuberculosis treatment rebounded to 5.3 million in 2021 and is nearing pre-pandemic levels of 5.5 million, according to a new Global Fund report. That's an encouraging sign of progress after treatment plummeted to just 4.5 million people in 2020, the report, released on Monday, notes. Overall, the new report shows the fight against HIV/AIDS and malaria, as well as tuberculosis, is

rebuilding momentum since the pandemic-fueled sharp declines in diagnosis and treatment levels for the world's three biggest infectious diseases.

### **Nigeria has a Maternal Health problem**

*Vanguard* | 12 September 2022

Nigeria has a maternal mortality problem. Scratch that. Nigeria has a maternal mortality crisis. One of the epic proportions. Every 11 minutes, a woman loses her life due to childbirth-related complications. Put more graphically, every day a plane full of women crashes them to their deaths. The pilot? Maternal mortality. Some days ago, a lady reached out to me to tell me about the death of her friend Mama J. Mama J had gone in for childbirth with severe shortage of blood, medically called "Anaemia". Her PCV was 16%. She was reportedly transfused and operated on. She developed a stroke afterwards and died.

### **Study: Cannabis use during pregnancy may harm child's long-term mental health**

*UPI* | 12 September 2022

Offering a cautionary tale to pregnant individuals who think smoking a joint is no big deal, new research links prenatal cannabis exposure to social, emotional and behavioral problems in offspring that may persist into early adolescence: ages 11 to 12. Researchers analyzed roughly a dozen measures, ranging from rule-breaking to aggression, a "sluggish cognitive tempo" and "psychotic-like experiences." In a research letter published Monday in *JAMA Pediatrics*, the investigators said the affected children also may face a greater risk of "psychiatric disorders and problematic substance use" as they enter the peak period of vulnerability in later adolescence.

### **WHO concerns trigger crisis response to Zimbabwe's measles outbreak**

*New Zimbabwe* | 12 September 2022

The World Health Organization has activated its emergency response strategy in Zimbabwe to deal with the latest measles outbreak in the Southern African nation. Staffing will be increased as part of the strategy, which has already included vaccinating at least 700,000 children. Despite this campaign, health experts remain concerned about the rapid spread of the virus. At least 6,444 cases have been recorded since April, when the first infections were reported in Zimbabwe's eastern province of Manicaland, with more than 700 deaths so far.

### **Covid reinfection – Omicron subvariant increases your risk, study finds**

*Daily Maverick* | 12 September 2022

Your chance of getting Covid-19 again is much higher than if you had the Delta and Beta variants, scientists have found. The latest study by scientists at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) has found that an analysis in trends of reinfections since the emergence of the Omicron subvariant shows a substantial increase in the reinfection risk not seen in the Delta and Beta variants. The study was authored by some of South Africa's foremost Covid-19 experts, including Professor Juliet Pulliam, director of the South African Centre for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (Sacema); Professor Jonathan Dushoff, an infectious disease expert from McMaster University in Canada; Dr Michelle Groome, Professor Anne von Gottberg, Professor Cheryl Cohen and Nevashan Govender, all from the NICD; Professor Koleka Mlisana from the National Health Laboratory Service; Professor Harry Moultrie from the University of the Witwatersrand; Siobhan Johnstone from the NICD; and Cari van Schalkwyk from Sacema.

### **Court ruling won't stop NHI plans for South Africa: minister**

*BusinessTech* | 13 September 2022

Minister of Health Joe Phaahla says that a recent High Court ruling declaring parts of the National Health Act unconstitutional won't stop the government's plans to roll out the National Health Insurance (NHI) scheme. In June 2022, the High Court found that sections 36 to 40 of the NHA were unconstitutional. The sections refer to the Act's provisions for issuing health establishments with a "certificate of need". According to the controversial laws, doctors and health practitioners cannot start a practice or provide health services without a certificate. Health professionals have long argued that the provision violates fundamental rights, as it gives the state power to stop them from working.

### **Formula milk industry targets health professionals to market products**

*Health-e News* | 13 September 2022

Health professionals are often targeted by formula milk companies, given their strong influence on mothers and infant feeding attitudes and practices. To counter their often aggressive marketing campaigns, a local expert believes health science students can act as agents of change. Dr Haroon Salojee, Professor of Community Pediatrics at the University of Witwatersrand (Wits), said there is an urgent need to strengthen lactation education and training. This will not only help arm mothers with the necessary knowledge but also healthcare professionals, who are the most trusted sources of education on infant feeding and nutrition.

## **Why the Latest Screening Tests and Treatments Offer Hope for Ovarian Cancer**

*Everyday Health | 13 September 2022*

When 58-year-old Karen Howley LaCamera went to the emergency room with acute pain in her abdomen in January 2018, she thought she was having another gall bladder attack. The doctors in the ER ordered a CT scan and told her she'd probably need surgery to remove her gall bladder if things didn't improve. She was released later that night. But when she got home, the ER doctor called to tell her that the problem wasn't her gallbladder, it was a tumor the size of an orange sitting on her ovary. Several tests, surgeries, and a biopsy later, LaCamera, who lives in Sudbury, Massachusetts, was diagnosed with stage 3 ovarian cancer. "I was just like wow," she recalls. "When I look back, I think about the symptoms I disregarded." LaCamera says she "always felt discomfort and excused it." She had frequent urination and pain in her abdomen, pelvis, and back. She also had bloating, or as she called it, a tummy roll. "No matter what I did for exercise I couldn't get rid of it," she says. She thought she was just getting older.

## **Breaking down inequalities to tackle the HIV epidemic**

*Reliefweb | 13 September 2022*

To end the HIV/AIDS epidemic, we first need to end the inequalities that prevent people from accessing healthcare. With support from the Global Fund, Cordaid runs a programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) that takes a Gender and Human Rights approach to ensure HIV services are accessible for all. Since the first case of AIDS globally in 1981, and the discovery of its cause, the HIV retrovirus, in 1983, great strides have been made to eradicate the epidemic. After four decades of relentless efforts against HIV, 94,000 people are still living with AIDS in the DRC. Today, the epidemic is said to be "concentrated". This means that despite the decline in the prevalence of HIV in the general population, there is a concentration of the epidemic in specific groups.

## **COVID-19: Another wave on the horizon for SA?**

*Health-e News | 13 September 2022*

Experts have warned South Africa could experience its 6th wave of COVID-19 by the end of September and are urging South Africans to continue getting vaccines and booster shots. Professor Hannelie Meyer, Head of the South African Vaccination and Immunisation Centre at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences, said this forecast is based on patterns identified since the pandemic started in 2020.

Previous COVID-19 patterns in play

"You normally see a new wave after approximately three months. However, it's likely to be mild if a new variant fails to emerge. Usually, when we see a surge in the number of infections, it is because of a new variant of the virus," Meyer said.

## **The oldest trick in Big Tobacco's playbook nearly derailed SA's TB conference. Here's why**

*Bhekisisa | 13 September 2022*

Ten days before today's opening of the seventh South African Tuberculosis (TB) Conference — on the morning of Saturday, September 3 — the event was set to be the best-attended iteration of the gathering to date. More than 1 000 delegates had signed up and the interest from civil society was unparalleled. Public health experts' enthusiasm came at a crucial time: after the COVID-19 pandemic had undone years of progress with cutting TB deaths (which are preventable). But by the end of that Saturday, high profile delegates' interest in attending the meeting had plummeted.

## **SAPHRA confirms second death linked to Covid-19 vaccine**

*EWN | 13 September 2022*

The South African Health Products Regulatory Authority (Sahpra) has reported a second death following vaccination with the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. In August, the country recorded its first

fatality linked to taking the jab. According to Sahpra, Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS) is a rare but potentially severe neurological adverse event that is associated with the administration of various vaccines and other medicines.

### **In-depth: Codeine regulation – a tussle between pain relief and addiction**

*Spotlight | 13 September 2022*

Whether a pharmacist suggests it for treating headaches or whether a doctor prescribes it for managing post-surgical pain, chances are good that at some point you've taken a pain pill containing the opioid codeine. Products like Gen-payne, Myprodol, and Stopayne all contain small amounts of codeine – typically in combination with other painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen. In recent years, however, the regulation of codeine has become something of a headache. On the one hand, codeine is a powerful and effective painkiller that can bring relief to many. On the other, abuse or misuse of the drug can lead to dependence and addiction. Finding the right balance between an outright ban and a free-for-all is not straightforward.

### **[WATCH] Books & babies: How to keep young mothers in school**

*Bhekisisa | 13 September 2022*

- Young people are having sex, whether their parents like it or not. But increasing teenage pregnancy rates indicate teens don't have the information they need to prevent unplanned pregnancies.
- Having open discussions about sex can help teens to understand the possible outcomes of experimenting with sex.
- Our reporters travelled to the North West for this video, where they spoke to a young mother, who fell pregnant when she was 13, but managed to return to school after her pregnancy.

### **Trauma cases are burdening the Western Cape's healthcare system**

*Health-e News | 14 September 2022*

Trauma cases continue to be a pressing issue for healthcare facilities in the Western Cape. This is now causing significant delays in scheduled surgeries, extended waiting periods and a financial burden on the healthcare system. During a summit last week, professors from Stellenbosch University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) discussed the province's inability to satisfy basic healthcare. Areas affected by preventable trauma cases include care for chronic diseases and maternal and child health. The meeting included key stakeholders in trauma care, public health, community safety, and provincial healthcare leaders. The summit acknowledged that alcohol plays a role in many trauma cases.

### **Alzheimer's: 'Let's protect our elderly' – FS locals**

*Health-e News | 15 September 2022*

The lives of elderly people living with mental illnesses like Alzheimer's and dementia have become hell as stigma and discrimination refuse to die down. It's so bad that an old woman living with dementia in the Free State was called a witch. Thomas Selogilwe, who resides in Thaba Nchu, is concerned for the welfare of his 81-year-old neighbour, Magaret Molema. He was roped in by social workers to help Molema when she started losing her sanity. "Gogo was found not too far from her place, and because no one knew about her problem, they called her a witch. I also realised that some had beaten her. Our people need to know that when you reach a certain age, your mind is not working as it used. Knowing about diseases like Alzheimer's and Dementia will prevent people from calling others names," said Selogile.

### **Government outlines nation's TB recovery plan as testing volumes show improvement**

*Daily Maverick | 15 September 2022*

South Africa's tuberculosis testing numbers have recovered from dramatic Covid-19-related declines in 2020, delegates heard this week at the opening of the 7th South African TB Conference held in Durban.

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## **TRAINING AND RESOURCES**

## Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust Bulletin

The Health Systems Trust (HST) produces a weekly bulletin on Fridays focusing on key public health news, peer-reviewed journal articles and other important primary healthcare resources.

## Subscribe to the Health Systems Trust 60percent

HST produces a weekly online publication, 60percent, which keeps subscribers abreast with the latest news and developments pertaining to HIV-related maternal, adolescent, child and youth health. The name 60percent signifies that southern Africa is responding to a feminised HIV/AIDS epidemic, with at least 60% of those living with HIV being women. Subscribe to 60percent by simply visiting HST's website (<https://www.hst.org.za>), scroll to the bottom of the page, hit the SUBSCRIBE button, and follow the prompts. Let's keep you posted!

## HSTi offers accredited and non-accredited short courses and full programmes

The Health Systems Training Institute (HSTi) is the training arm of the Health Systems Trust (HST), a leading force in the South African public health sector. HST was established in 1992, on the brink of democracy in South Africa, and has since played a significant role in strengthening the national primary health system through health research, informatics, clinical support, capacity-building and training.

## New fund for pandemic prevention, preparedness and response formally established

*World Health Organization | 9 September 2022*

The new financial intermediary fund (FIF) for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPR) was officially established by the FIF Governing Board at its inaugural meeting from 8-9 September 2022. The fund will provide a dedicated stream of additional, long-term financing to strengthen PPR capabilities in low- and middle-income countries and address critical gaps through investments and technical support at the national, regional, and global levels. The fund will draw on the strengths and comparative advantages of key institutions engaged in PPR, provide complementary support, improve coordination among partners, incentivize increased country investments, serve as a platform for advocacy, and help focus and sustain much-needed, high-level attention on strengthening health systems. The first calls for proposals for investments to be funded by the FIF will open in November 2022.

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# PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

## South African Health Review 2021

*Health Systems Trust | 2021*

When it comes to service delivery and access in both the public and private health sectors, COVID-19 has put everything to the test. It has demonstrated how central public health security is to health and livelihoods, and how pandemic health emergencies expose the weaknesses and vulnerabilities of health systems, costing lives and causing immeasurable damage to economies. Few could have imagined the impact of COVID-19 when this pandemic reached our shores in March 2020.

This edition considers the government's and broader health sector's response to COVID-19, explores the current challenges facing the health system at this unprecedented time, and reflects on lessons learnt for future for public health emergencies. The chapters offer information on, inter alia, the challenges of balancing lives with livelihoods, and the impact of COVID-19 on different cadres of healthcare workers, especially Community Health Workers who found themselves at the forefront of our COVID-19 response. Other areas covered include the impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable populations like children, persons with disabilities, farmworkers, migrants, and the poorest in our society.

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# CONFERENCES AND EVENTS



## World Health Organization | World Patient Safety Day

Date: 17 September 2022

Medications are the most widely utilized interventions in health care, and medication-related harm constitutes the greatest proportion of the total preventable harm due to unsafe care, let alone the economic and psychological burden imposed by such harm. Acknowledging this substantial burden and recognizing the complexity of medication-related harm prevention and reduction, the theme of World Patient Safety Day 2022 is "Medication Safety". The campaign is envisaged to provide the needed impetus to consolidate the efforts of the existing WHO Global Patient Safety Challenge: Medication Without Harm, emphasizing the need to adopt a systems approach and promote safe medication practices to prevent medication errors and reduce medication-related harm. Special consideration will be given to areas where most harm occurs. The key action areas are high-risk situations, transitions of care, and polypharmacy.

## REDUCING TEEN PREGNANCIES IN SOUTH AFRICA: WHAT WORKS AND WHAT CAN BE SCALED UP?

Access to youth-focused sexual and reproductive health services in South Africa is challenging. The Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), with the Health Systems Trust (HST) and HIP-G invites you to a webinar to discuss:

- possible actions for scaling up teen pregnancy prevention
- youth experiences in accessing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services,
- sharing best practices for improving access to SRH services, and

The webinar will focus on youth voices, with participants including youth engaged in programmes, facility level service providers and representatives from the Ritshidze Campaign (partnered by the Treatment Action Campaign), with:

### Speakers on:

- implementing partner perspectives on providing SRH services (Jenny Mcloughlin, TB HIV Care, Programme Director: PPPREV/PrEP)
- possible actions for scaling up of teen pregnancy prevention (Dr Venkatraman Chandra-Mouli, Department of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization)
- contributions on experiences of facility Youth Health services including:

- o Nelly Mahlali from Ngangelizwe Clinic in Mthatha
- o Thulina Moukangwe, Treatment Action Campaign Young LGBTQI Sector Leader, Gauteng
- o Amahle Ndlovu from Inanda Seminary Clinic in Durban

**Moderator:** Dr Thato Chidarikire, Director of HIV Prevention Programmes in the National Department of Health

**WHEN:** MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2022, 14H00 – 15H30 SAST (GMT+2)

Please [Register Here](#)

**Q & A:** Participants will be able to submit questions during the webinar by using the "Q&A" feature. You may also submit your questions in advance to the email [Webinar@hst.org.za](mailto:Webinar@hst.org.za)

## Pathways Forward to End HIV: How HIV Cure Research is Helping to Advance HIV Vaccine Research

Date: 20 September 2022

Time: 2:00pm-3:30pm EST (11:00am-12:30pm PST)

HIV vaccine research and cure research are both critically needed to end HIV. Research involving broadly neutralizing antibodies (bnAbs) is helping pave the way towards a possible HIV vaccine as shown in the AMP Study. However, new trials designs and concepts using bnAbs must be developed. As such, the HIV Vaccine Trials Network is currently conducting a study with AMP participants who acquired HIV that includes an analytical treatment interruption (ATI), a well-known cure research method. The study is assessing whether receipt of a bnAb may promote control of HIV when antiretroviral therapy is interrupted, and will gather information that can potentially assist the development of bnAbs and vaccines for both HIV

prevention and cure. Please join Treatment Action Group, Dr. Shelly Karuna, and Dr. Karine Dubé for a webinar on the next generation of bnAbs trial design and ethics related to ATIs in HIV vaccine and cure research.

## World Health Summit 2022: Press accreditation now open

*World Health Organization | 13 September 2022*

The World Health Summit and WHO jointly invite to the world's leading global health conference. This year's Summit will take place from 16-18 October 2022 in Berlin, Germany, and will bring together the most prominent names in global health from all sectors in all regions of the world: heads of state and government ministers, scientists, and representatives from the private sector as well as civil society. Patrons are German Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz, French President Emmanuel Macron, and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. WHS 2022 aims to set the course for a healthier, more equitable future. Central topics include climate change and health, pandemic preparedness, digital transformation, and sustainable health systems. The World Health Summit is open to the press, but places for journalists on-site are limited. Digital participation requires no accreditation, links will be available shortly before WHS 2022 at [www.worldhealthsummit.org](http://www.worldhealthsummit.org). For media inquiries, follow <https://www.worldhealthsummit.org/whs-2022/media-center.html>

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## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

### Medical Officer (CCPAC) Project

Closing Date: 2022-09-20

### Post-Basic Pharmacist Assistants

Closing Date: 2022-09-20

### Administrator

Closing Date: 2022-09-26

### Data Quality Control Officer

Closing Date: 2022-09-26

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