



# HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

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## Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

### **The Millennium Development Goals: a cross-sectoral analysis and principles for goal setting after 2015**

*Banerji R, Campbel O, Chirwa E, Collender G, Dieltiens V, Dorward A, et al. The Lancet Commissions. Published: 13 September 2010.*

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) represent an unprecedented global consensus about measures to reduce poverty. Progress in some goals has been impressive; however, global targets will not be met in some regions, particularly sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. As we approach the 2015 target date, there is considerable interest in assessment of the present goals and in consideration of the future of development goals after 2015...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://press.thelancet.com/mdgcommission.pdf> [Accessed: 14 September 2010]

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### **Improving public health training and research capacity in Africa: a replicable model for linking training to health and socio-demographic surveillance data**

*Williams JR, Schatz EJ, Clark BD, Collinson MA, Clark SJ, Menken J, Kahn K, Tollman SM. Global Health Action. Published: 31 August 2010.*

Research training for public health professionals is key to the future of public health and policy in Africa. A growing number of schools of public health are connected to health and socio-demographic surveillance system field sites in developing countries, in Africa and Asia in particular. Linking training programmes with these sites provides important opportunities to improve training, build local research capacity, foreground local health priorities, and increase the relevance of research to local health policy...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.globalhealthaction.net/index.php/gha/article/view/5287/5955> [Accessed: 13 September 2010]

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### **Health-systems strengthening: current and future activities**

*Sundewall J, Swanson RC, Betigeri A, Sanders D, Collins TC, Shakarishvili G, Brugha R. The Lancet. Published:*

3 September 2010.

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. Traditional donors and new disease-specific aid initiatives are directly or indirectly funding health-system strengthening. The need for greater capacity to produce a better evidence-base for health-system strengthening has resulted in the first global symposium on health-systems research, to be held in Montreux, Switzerland, in November, 2010. The consensus on the importance of strong health systems is welcomed. However, without clarity on future directions, focus and energy could dissipate...[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)

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### **Equity in HIV testing: evidence from a cross-sectional study in ten Southern African countries**

*Mitchell S, Cockcroft A, Lamothe G, Andersson N. International Health and Human Rights 2010, 10:23.*

*Published: 13 September 2010.*

HIV testing with counselling is an integral component of most national HIV and AIDS prevention strategies in Southern Africa. Equity in testing implies that people at higher risk for HIV such as women; those who do not use condoms consistently; those with multiple partners; those who have suffered gender based violence; and those who are unable to implement prevention choices (the choice-disabled) are tested and can have access to treatment. We conducted a household survey of 24,069 people in nationally stratified random samples of communities in Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1472-698x-10-23.pdf> (Approximately: 291KB) [Accessed: 16 September 2010]

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## **Recent News**

### **Where have all the patients gone?**

*Health-e. Published: 15 September 2010.*

Analysis of five years of antiretroviral treatment in the State sector has found that the number of South African patients who were lost to follow-up or could not be traced has rapidly increased from 1% in 2002 to 24% in 2007. It also found that the longer patients were on treatment the more likely they were to appear lost from the treatment programme... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032922>

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### **Financing public health in Africa**

*IPS. Published: 14 September 2010.*

Campaigners for increased health financing welcome the commitment by African Union member states to direct more resources to health. But the needs of the continent seem to dwarf available budgets. Africa is home to 12 percent of the world's population, yet accounts for 22 percent of the total global disease burden. More than 68 percent of the people living with HIV/AIDS are also found in Sub-Saharan Africa... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=52832>

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### **Staffing rural health facilities**

*Health-e. Published: 13 September 2010.*

Retaining health workers in rural facilities remains a major challenge facing South Africa and other developing nations. But, some success stories have emerged from a few rural areas. An initiative in the Western Cape shows that the challenge of retaining health workers in rural facilities can be overcome... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032920> [Accessed: 13 September 2010]

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### **Health sector grapples with NHI concerns**

*Mail & Guardian. Published: 7 September 2010.*

The latest research from the University of Cape Town's Health Economics Unit has found that spending on the national health insurance system would roughly match what the government currently spends on healthcare. This is according to the unit's director, Di McIntyre. The Health Economics Unit is due to release the report in the next few weeks... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.mg.co.za/article/2010-09-07-health-sector-grapples-with-nhi-concerns> [Accessed: 14 September 2010]

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### **Call to end child deaths from HIV: living with AIDS**

*Health-e. Published: 16 September 2010.*

International donors and African governments have been called upon to commit financial resources for the

elimination of HIV infection in children, which still remains high. In South Africa alone, AIDS-related child mortality is 45%. Two UNICEF reports released recently say that 90% of all paediatric AIDS cases globally are in Africa. Around 1000 children are born with HIV on the continent every day. According to the reports, "Narrowing the Gaps to Meet the Goals" and "Progress for Children: Achieving the MDGs with Equity", just a little over one-third of these children will have access to life-saving anti-retroviral therapies... [Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032923>

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## Training and Resources

### Monitoring & Evaluation training workshop

*Health & Development Africa.*

The "Bridging HIV/AIDS Programmes and M&E" is a 3 day workshop that covers the epidemiology of HIV/AIDS and TB/HIV co-infection and the evidence base that supports programme design, in order to understand how best to monitor and evaluate specific service delivery areas. Topical experts will present sessions that review the epidemiology of a particular disease, and the particulars relevant to that programme. The course also includes some of the most critical aspects of M&E: data quality, data analysis and data use.

For more information contact: Andiswa Hani Tel: 011-484 82 17 Email: ahani@hda.co.za.

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## Reports

### Trends in Maternal Mortality: 1990 to 2008

*World Health Organization.*

Millennium development goal 5 Target 5A calls for the reduction of maternal mortality ratio by three quarters between 1990 and 2015. It has been a challenge to assess the extent of progress due to the lack of reliable and accurate maternal mortality data – particularly in developing-country settings where maternal mortality is high. As part of on-going efforts, the WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank revised and improved earlier methods to estimate maternal mortality in 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, and 2008; and developed methodology to present trends in maternal mortality from 1990 to 2008 at country, regional, and global levels...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241500265\\_eng.pdf](http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241500265_eng.pdf)

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### IST reports on the state of the health system and the public's right to know

*Rural Health Advocacy Project.*

More than a year after their finalisation and after many frustrated attempts by civil society organisations and the media to access them – including through the Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 – SECTION27 and the Rural Health Advocacy Project have released copies of all the provincial reports compiled by the Integrated Support Teams...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

To gain access to the provincial IST reports, click on the following link: [http://www.rhap.org.za/?page\\_id=7](http://www.rhap.org.za/?page_id=7).

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### Assessing Cost-Effectiveness in Prevention

*University of Queensland, Brisbane and Deakin University, Melbourne.*

University of Queensland and Deakin University researchers have released a report with dozens of recommendations that strongly support more spending on prevention, but also warn that not all prevention measures are wise investments. The Assessing Cost Effectiveness of Prevention project is the result of five years of research, funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council. It is believed to be the most comprehensive evaluation of health prevention measures ever conducted world-wide, involving input from 130 top health experts...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: [http://www.sph.uq.edu.au/docs/BODCE/ACE-P/ACE-Prevention\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.sph.uq.edu.au/docs/BODCE/ACE-P/ACE-Prevention_final_report.pdf)

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### Return on Investment: the long-term impact of building healthcare capacity in Africa

*Accordia Global Health Foundation.*

In an effort to strengthen Africa's health systems and improve the continent's overall well-being, a significant paradigm shift to more effectively build leadership and management capacity among Africa's global health leaders is underway. This shift is demanding a change in mind-set by institutions, governments, and health organisations across Africa about the value of developing leadership in an intentional way. It is also changing the way people are recruited, assessed, developed, and incited in progressively more responsible leadership and management positions. Clearly, these shifts are requiring more real human and financial investment, not only to prepare individuals and institutions for leadership roles in healthcare policy, education, research, and service, but also to create an enabling environment in which the current cadre of leaders is retained and emerging leaders can thrive...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.ukcds.org.uk/assets/file/publications/Accordia-report.pdf> (Approximately: 1295 KB)  
[Accessed: 13 September 2010]

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## Conferences

### Summit on the Millennium Development Goals

20-22 September 2010, New York, United States

URL: [http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/meetings/2010/mdg\\_summit/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/meetings/2010/mdg_summit/en/index.html)

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called a summit to accelerate progress towards the MDGs. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed in September 2000, commits world leaders to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. They established eight Millennium Development Goals, with targets set for 2015, and identified a number of indicators to monitor progress, several of which relate directly to health.

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### CODESRIA: 2010 Gender Symposium

Theme: Gender, Migration and Socioeconomic Development in Africa

24-26 November 2010, Cairo, Egypt

URL: <http://www.codesria.org/spip.php?article976&lang=en>

The Gender Symposium is a forum organised annually by CODESRIA to discuss gender issues and their impacts on the development of the continent. The theme of this year's edition is Gender, Migration and Socioeconomic Development in Africa.

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## Job Opportunities

### Monitoring & Evaluation and Data Quality Officers

Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Research (CIDER), UCT

Closing date: 30 September 2010.

CIDER seeks to appoint a full-time Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and a Data Quality Officer for the following project initially on a one-year contract appointment. The Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology & Research is a service-orientated research grouping in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine focusing on priority infectious diseases such as HIV and tuberculosis. The Centre has a new project in the Motheo District of the Free State Province, which seeks to strengthen the monitoring of the prevention of mother-to-child transmission programme, through the implementation of a monitoring tool, and training and support of the appropriate staff responsible for data from facility through to district level.

For more information:

<http://www.hst.org.za/news/20042003> (Monitoring and Evaluation Officer)

<http://www.hst.org.za/news/20042004> (Data Quality Officer)

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### 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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