

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Income security in times of ill health: the next frontier for the SDGs

BMJ Global Health | Published: 15 June 2020.

Knut Lönnroth, Lou Tessier, Gunnel Hensing, Christina Behrendt

Poor health can trap individuals, families and communities in a vicious disease-poverty cycle. While ensuring universal access to affordable healthcare in times of need is essential to break this cycle, income security in time of sickness or injury for all is equally important. Recent evidence indicates that people who cannot work or are not allowed to work due to illness face high indirect costs linked to income loss, which can be compounded by the opportunity cost of time spent seeking and staying in care. For example, the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic illustrates that lack of income security leads to economic hardship for individuals and creates barriers for adhering to infection control measures, and similar challenges have previously been well-documented concerning tuberculosis.

Workplace-based health research training: a qualitative study of perceived needs in a rural setting

BMC Health Research Policy and Systems | Published: 15 June 2020.

David Schmidt, Jill Reyment, Emma Webster, Sue Kirby, David Lyle

The calls for increased numbers of researchers in rural health are growing. To meet this demand, training is needed. If training is to be effective, the value placed on research, the organisational need for research training and key targets for research skill development within a rural health organisation must be understood. This qualitative study was underpinned by a critical realist perspective that allowed exploration of the organisational, cultural and structural contexts of research training and of the ability of individuals to act within these contexts.

Preferences for long-acting Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention among South African youth: results of a discrete choice experiment

Journal of the International AIDS Society | Published: 16 June 2020.

Alexandra M Minnis, Millicent Atujuna, Erica N Browne, Sheily Ndwayana, Miriam Hartmann, Siyaxolisa Sindelo, et al

Existing biomedical HIV prevention options, though highly effective, present substantial adherence

challenges. End-user input on early-stage design of new HIV prevention approaches is critical to yielding products that achieve high uptake and adherence. The iPrevent Study examined youths' preferences for key attributes of long-acting Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), with a focus on characteristics pertinent to product delivery alongside key modifiable product attributes.

Religion, faith, and spirituality influences on HIV prevention activities: A scoping review

PlosOne | Published: 16 June 2020.

Vivian Vigliotti, Tamara Taggart, Mahaya Walker, Sasmita Kusmastuti, Yusuf Ransome

Strategies to increase uptake of next-generation biomedical prevention technologies (e.g., long-acting injectable pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP)) can benefit from understanding associations between religion, faith, and spirituality (RFS) and current primary HIV prevention activities (e.g., condoms and oral PrEP) along with the mechanisms which underlie these associations.

[The authors] searched PubMed, Embase, Academic Search Premier, Web of Science, and Sociological Abstracts for empirical articles that investigated and quantified relationships between RFS and primary HIV prevention activities outlined by the United States (U.S.) Department of Health and Human Services: condom use, HIV and STI testing, number of sexual partners, injection drug use treatment, medical male circumcision, and PrEP.

Impact of routine birth early infant diagnosis on neonatal HIV treatment cascade in eThekweni district, South Africa

Southern African Journal of HIV Medicine | Published: 2 June 2020.

Vidya Kalawan, Kevindra Naidoo, Moherndran Archary

Early infant diagnosis (EID) of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and early initiation of antiretroviral therapy (ART) in HIV-infected infants can reduce the risk of mortality and improve clinical outcomes. Infant testing guidelines in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, changed from targeted birth EID (T-EID) only in high-risk infants to a routine birth EID (R-EID) testing strategy in 2015. [The objective of this study was] to describe the impact of the implementation of R-EID on the infant treatment cascade. A retrospective analysis of a facility-based clinical database for the eThekweni district and the National Health Laboratory Services (NHLS) was conducted. All data on neonates (< 4 weeks of age) diagnosed with HIV between January 2013 and December 2017 (T-EID [2013–2015] and R-EID [2016–2017]) were extracted including follow-up until 1 year post-diagnosis.

Surgical care at rural district hospitals in low- and middle-income countries: an essential component of universal health coverage

Rural and Remote Health | Published: 14 June 2020.

Kathryn M Chu, Priyanka Naidu, Hans J Hendriks, Jennifer Nash, Francois J Coetzee, Martene Esteves, et al

Surgical care has long been considered too exclusive and uneconomical to be a public health priority, despite one third of the total global burden of disease being attributed to surgical conditions. Furthermore, five billion people worldwide do not have access to safe and timely surgical care, the majority of whom live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) including sub-Saharan Africa.

The Lancet Commission on Global Surgery has highlighted surgical care as an important component of universal health coverage, urging the world to make surgical, anaesthetic and obstetric services a priority on the global health agenda.

Emerging Opportunities Provided by Technology to Advance Research in Child Health Globally

Global Pediatric Health | Published: 17 May 2020.

Alastair van Heerden, Jukka Leppanen, Mary Jane Rotheram-Borus, Carol M Worthman, Brandon A Kohrt, Sarah Skeen, et al

Current approaches to longitudinal assessment of children's developmental and psychological well-being, as mandated in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, are expensive and time consuming. Substantive understanding of global progress toward these goals will require a suite of new robust, cost-effective research tools designed to assess key developmental processes in diverse settings. While first steps have been taken toward this end through efforts such as the National Institutes of Health's Toolbox, experience-near approaches including naturalistic observation have remained too costly and time consuming to scale to the population level. This perspective presents 4 emerging technologies with high

potential for advancing the field of child health and development research, namely (1) affective computing, (2) ubiquitous computing, (3) eye tracking, and (4) machine learning. By drawing attention of scientists, policy makers, investors/funders, and the media to the applications and potential risks of these emerging opportunities, we hope to inspire a fresh wave of innovation and new solutions to the global challenges faced by children and their families.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

New PrEP injection testament to HIV research and community partnership

Health-e News | 12 June 2020.

With the development of a new delivery form of PrEP, HIV advocacy and research communities bolster itself after the HVTN 702 clinical trial's premature ending, writes Ntando Yola.

Lockdown impacts HIV prevention programme for adolescent girls and young women

Spotlight NSP | 17 June 2020.

Under level 5 and 4 of South Africa's COVID-19 lockdown regulations adolescent girls and young women (AGYW) aged 14 to 24 years could not meet face-to-face in specially created safe spaces with counsellors, as part of a combination HIV intervention programme.

The need for a coordinated international pandemic response

Bulletin of the World Health Organization | June 2020.

The COVID-19 pandemic has drawn attention to the international agreement governing responses to public health emergencies, with some experts calling for its revision. Lynn Eaton and Gary Humphreys report.

Coronavirus breakthrough: dexamethasone is first drug shown to save lives

Nature | 16 June 2020.

In a large trial, a cheap and widely available steroid cut deaths by one-third among patients critically ill with COVID-19.

Health ministry changes stance on use of dexamethasone for treating Covid-19

IOL | 17 June 2020.

The Covid-19 sub-committee of the National Essential Medicines List Committee is updating its recommendations on the use of corticosteroids in the treatment of Covid-19, the Health Ministry says, in light of the initial clinical trial results on the use of dexamethasone.

Coronavirus vaccine trial by Imperial College London begins

The Guardian | 16 June 2020.

Professor says early vaccines may not stop virus being contracted but prevent recipients developing severe Covid-19 illness. Researchers at Imperial College London will this week begin clinical trials of a possible coronavirus vaccine in 300 people.

'I was scared of hypertension at 25'

Health-e News | 17 June 2020.

Although in some communities' hypertension is associated with the elderly, young people do silently suffer from this chronic illness. "In rural areas, most people don't believe it when someone my age says they have hypertension. That's why, for all these years, I have silently lived with hypertension and only my family knows that I have it," says Khodani Mpilo.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Webinar - Health System Global Medicines in Health Systems

Medicines in Health Systems Thematic Working Group | 25 June 2020.

Please join the 'Medicines in Health Systems Thematic Working Group' Webinar Thursday June 25, 10:00 US EST/15:00 UK/16:00 Central Europe, CAT, South Africa/ 19:30 India

"Medicines access and quality during the COVID-19 pandemic: spotlight on South Africa, Bolivia and Nigeria"

This webinar explores medicines access and quality taking a health systems perspective. It will highlight examples of delivering continuous access to HIV/AIDS medication in South Africa, challenges of self-medication in Bolivia, and ensuring medicines quality in Nigeria during the COVID-19 pandemic to discuss opportunities and challenges of health system strengthening.

Panellists: Andy Gray MSc (Pharm) FPS FFIP (South Africa), Rene Soria-Saucedo, MD, MPH, PhD (Bolivia), and Moji Christianah Adeyeye PhD, FAAPS, FPSN, FAPharm, FAS, (Nigeria). Moderated by Sachiko Ozawa, co-chair of the Medicines in Health Systems Thematic Working Group.

Here's a really great way to find the studies you're looking for

Bhekisisa | 12 June 2020.

Finding it hard to narrow down searches for journal studies you'd like to reference in your stories? Our friends from Cochrane South Africa and the South African Medical Research Council taught us how to use the PICO method.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Situation reports on COVID-19 outbreak - Sitrep 15, 10 June 2020

WHO Africa Region | 10 June 2020.

The coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak continues in the WHO African Region (with Algeria confirming the first case on 25 February 2020), with rising incidence cases and associated deaths. Since our last situation report on 3 June 2020 (External Situation Report 14), an additional 33 555 new confirmed COVID-19 cases (a 31% increase) were reported from 44 countries. During this period, six countries in the WHO African region observed the highest percentage increase in cases: Mauritania 98% (from 588 to 1 162 cases), Ethiopia 74% (from 1 344 to 2 336 cases), Central African Republic 73% (from 1 069 to 1 850 cases), South Sudan 62% (from 994 to 1 606 cases) and Zimbabwe 52% (from 206 to 314 cases). In the same reporting week, Malawi and Namibia reported clusters of cases that were identified in quarantine areas as nationals continue to return from neighbouring affected countries. Three new countries, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia and Uganda, joined the list of countries reporting health worker infections. The region has registered 18 643 new recoveries in this reporting period compared to 15 015 in our previous report.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Due to the disruption COVID-19 has caused the conferencing industry many events have been cancelled or postponed. As a result of this uncertainty we have decided not to list any conferences and events in the Bulletin for the time being.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Area Monitoring and Evaluation Officers

Closing Date: 24 June 2020

Health Systems Trust: Area Co-ordinators

Closing Date: 24 June 2020

STAR: Senior Drug-Resistant TB Technical Advisor

Closing Date: 28 June 2020

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