

HST Bulletin_23 September 2022

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CATEGORIES

[Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles](#)[Recent Public Health News](#)[Training and Resources](#)[Publications and Reports](#)[Conferences and Events](#)[Job Opportunities](#)

ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Nursing students' experiences of health screening in rural areas of southern Turkey: a qualitative study

Remote and Rural Health | 15 September 2022

Individuals in rural areas live with healthcare disadvantages relating to, for example, access to health institutions, necessary treatments, and healthcare professionals during medical emergencies. The aim of this study was to explore the experiences, beliefs and attitudes of nursing students to identify advantages and disadvantages of health screening in several rural areas in rural Turkey.

Approaches to improving the efficiency of HIV programme investments

Reliefweb | 16 September 2022

Minahil Shahid, Ipchita Bharali, Robert Hecht and Gavin Yamey

Improving the efficiency of investments in HIV control programmes is critical to the ongoing HIV response and reaching the target of ending the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 (Sustainable Development Goal 3.3). Donor fatigue and the gradual decline in donor disbursements, including the decade-long trend of declining bilateral funding for HIV from donor governments other than the USA, present a challenge to sustaining the current level of HIV spending. Even with the existing available resources, the global burden of HIV exceeds the funding available to address it. In light of the negative economic impacts of COVID-19, donor funding for HIV could be under further threat. While there is widespread agreement that there is a need for additional resources to adequately address HIV, evidence suggests that new resources raised from international and domestic sources are unlikely to be sufficient in the near future. Scaling up HIV services to achieve national and global targets will, therefore, require that countries take steps to get 'more health for the money'—that is, to get the most out of available funding by improving the efficiency of the HIV response.

Gender-Affirming Care in Persons Living with HIV

ContagionLive | 19 September 2022

Jenna Januszka, Renata Smith and Melissa Badowski

Gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT) therapy consists of administration of exogenous hormones

and suppression of endogenous hormone production, with the goal of obtaining characteristics more congruent with an individual's gender identity. Here is a review of these therapies and consideration for PrEP and the risks associated with HIV in this diverse population. Gender-affirming care consists of comprehensive services including medical, surgical, mental health, and social services to support and affirm an individual's gender identity. Gender identity refers to a person's individual experience of gender. A transgender, gender nonconforming, gender nonbinary, or genderqueer person's gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth. In 2019, approximately 1 million individuals living in the United States identified as transgender or gender nonconforming. Transgender individuals made up approximately 2% of all new HIV diagnoses that year. Transgender persons are at high risk for acquiring HIV, with approximately 14% of trans women and 3% of trans men already living with HIV and even higher rates among racial minority transgender persons. Transgender individuals may prioritize gender-affirming hormone therapy (GAHT) over antiretroviral therapy (ART) if they perceive ART to decrease efficacy of GAHT. Previous literature suggests provision of gender-affirming care to persons living with HIV improves quality of life as well as engagement and retention in care.

Mortality in patients with acquired human immunodeficiency virus infection hospitalized in an intensive care unit during the period 2017–2019

Nature | 19 September 2022

Guillermo Ruiz, Carlos Herrera, Jorge Bohórquez and John Betancur

Identify risk factors associated with mortality in HIV patients admitted to an ICU in the city of Bogotá. Retrospective cohort study of patients treated in an ICU during the years 2017–2019. The analysis included descriptive statistics, association tests, and a logistic regression model. A predictive model of mortality at the time of admission to the ICU was developed. 110 HIV patients were identified. Association was found between a Charlson index ≥ 6 and mortality (OR = 2.3, 95% CI 1.0–5.1) and an increase in mortality in the first 21 days of ICU stay (OR = 2.2, 95% CI 1.0–4.9). In the logistic regression analysis, the absence of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) upon admission to the ICU (OR = 2.5 95% CI 1.0–6.1) and the first 21 days of ICU stay (OR = 2.3 95% CI 1.0–5.4) were associated with an increase in mortality. The predictive mortality model established that mortality was higher in patients admitted to the ICU without having previously received HAART than in those who did receive therapy at the time of admission to the ICU. In patients with HIV admitted to the ICU, the absence of HAART will negatively impact mortality during their hospital stay.

Trend of HIV Transmitted Drug Resistance After the Introduction of Single-Tablet Regimens in Southern Taiwan

Dove Press | 19 September 2022

Despite the wide implementation of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART) for people living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the emergence of HIV transmitted drug resistance (TDR) can substantially increase the risk of treatment failure. In Taiwan, HIV infection is a reportable disease. Since the first HIV-1-infected patient was diagnosed in Taiwan in 1984, the annual number of reported cases has reduced remarkably, possibly due to the promotion of HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis, implementation of treatment for prevention with no CD4 limitation, introduction of single-tablet regimen (STRs), and case management nurses. By the end of March 2022, a total of 42,553 individuals were reported as being infected with HIV-1 in Taiwan, most of whom (28,297, 66.5%) were men who have sex with men (MSM) or bisexual, and 93% were aged 15–49 years. The Taiwan Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has provided free voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) services since 1997 to reach the target populations most at risk of HIV infection in Taiwan. The prevalence rate of TDR in Taiwan, where genotypic drug-resistance testing is not routinely available, is about 10–12% for nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NRTIs), non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors (NNRTIs), and protease inhibitors (PIs).

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

New strategic plan will help regain mission in the fight against TB: Minister Phaahla

SABC News | 16 September 2022

Minister of Health Doctor Joe Phaahla says government is working on a new Tuberculosis (TB) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) national strategic plan, in an effort to reach its goal of eradicating TB

by 2030. Addressing delegates during the closing ceremony of the 7th SA TB Conference in Durban, Phaahla admitted that TB did take a back seat during the COVID-19 pandemic. Statistics show that during the COVID 19 pandemic in 2020 alone, the country recorded 328 000 new TB infections. It is said that of this, about 60 percent of patients also have HIV. Phaahla says the new strategic plan will help the country to regain its mission in the fight against TB infections. "It is a critical process, it's a critical document we are developing. It is the last one, we are working towards our achievement of the agenda 2030 that is to eliminate TB as our public health threat. So the NSP that we are working on will be launched at the World TB 2023 [Conference], will be the plan that will take us to 2030," says the minister.

Let's chat Patient Safety with Dr Ganizani Mlawanda

Health Systems Trust | 16 September 2022

The global community commemorates World Patient Safety Day on Saturday, 17 September 2022. To raise awareness, the World Health Organization reminds us that: "Every person around the world will, at some point in their life, take medications to prevent or treat illness. However, medications sometimes cause serious harm if incorrectly stored, prescribed, dispensed, administered or if monitored insufficiently... It is in this context that 'Medication Safety' has been selected as the theme for World Patient Safety Day 2022, with the slogan 'Medication Without Harm'." HST's Communications Unit had a brief chat with one of the organisation's Advanced Clinical Care Clinicians, Dr Ganizani Mlawanda – a Family Physician, Clinical Epidemiologist and Advanced HIV Clinician with over 18 years HIV/AIDS/STIs/TB programme design, implementation and management experience at all levels. He is passionate about HAST (HIV, AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections, and TB) and NCDs' (non-communicable diseases) medical education.

Speaking Notes: Dr. Joe Phaahla – 7th SA TB Conference: Working together to get TB control back on track

Covid-19 Online Resource and News Portal | 16 September 2022

In November last year we were here for the International Aids Conference in Africa (ICASA), but we had to make drastic adjustments due to the break-out of the 4th wave of Omicron. One of the most devastating impacts of the pandemic was the disruptions it created in HIV and TB response. The 7th SA TB Conference is indeed a sign that we are on the road to recovery. It has provided us an opportunity to showcase South Africa's resilience through the COVID- 19 pandemic, as well as the milestones we have achieved in our quest to eliminate TB as a public health threat. We go away with renewed vigour to accelerate the country's efforts against TB. In March 2021, the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC) took a decision to extend the current National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs for the period 2017 to 2022 by an additional year to implement NSP Catch-Up Plans designed to mitigate against the impact of COVID-19. The main aim of the Catch-Up Plans was to accelerate programme implementation and explore other interventions to fast-track progress against the targets set in the NSP. The TB catch up plans culminated in the TB Recovery Plan. I am sure that during the course of this conference you were able to reflect on the TB Recovery Plan.

Vaginismus, endometriosis: 'Women's health continues to be downplayed', says doctor

News24 | 16 September 2022

Good sexual and reproductive health is key to a woman's general health and well-being, yet women often shy away from these discussions. One intimate health expert urges women to talk openly about their sexual health. Dr Shirin Lakhani, a UK-based GP and owner of Elite Aesthetics, told Cover Media that women should feel free to bring up topics they are concerned about, whether it's with their doctor or a loved one. "Women's health continues to be downplayed, especially around sexual health, and women often go incorrectly treated," she says, adding: "Sexual health-related issues are wide-ranging and encompass everything from sexual dysfunction, sexual expression, and also pleasure."

Teaming up to end teenage pregnancies in SADC

Health-E News | 16 September 2022

With at least 13% of women in developing countries bearing children while they are still kids themselves, four global health giants have joined forces to end this scourge of teenage pregnancies. To counter this, the 2gether4SRHR programme, which combines the efforts of UNAIDS, UNFPA, UNICEF and the World Health Organisation (WHO), hosted a dialogue earlier this week. The discussion titled 'Building back

better' discussed high-impact practices to prevent pregnancies among teenagers in the Southern African Development Community region (SADC). Together, they aim to improve the sexual and reproductive health and the rights of all people, especially adolescent girls and young people.

UNAIDS urges donors to fully fund the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to get the HIV response back on track

UNAIDS | 18 September 2022

UNAIDS is calling on countries and donors to fully fund the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria by pledging a total of at least US\$18 billion at the Seventh Global Fund Replenishment Conference hosted by President Biden in New York this week. Speaking at the opening, on behalf of the United Nations family, the Executive Director of UNAIDS Winnie Byanyima said, "Millions of lives are at stake, along with the health of us all. A successful replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria is essential to get the world on track to end three of today's most devastating epidemics and instill resilience into national health systems capable of withstanding tomorrow's shocks." In its July report, *In Danger*, UNAIDS revealed that the AIDS response is under serious threat from COVID-19 and the economic crisis, compounded by a continued decline in resources. It showed that while HIV infections should be continuing to decline in all countries, one in five of the world's countries house rising new HIV infections. The rate of new infections globally only fell by 3.6% between 2020–2021, the smallest annual decrease since 2016.

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PrEParing for the next chapter of HIV prevention in Myanmar

UNAIDS | 19 September 2022

Two young men are sitting on a couch scrolling on their phones when May Oo, a famous makeup artist and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) activist in Myanmar, joins them wearing a face mask and carrying a bag of drinks. He announces that a friend who works at an HIV clinic in Yangon told him that pre-exposure prophylaxis, or PrEP, is now available in Myanmar. As one friend is unaware of PrEP, May Oo shares his knowledge, also informing anyone else who would like to listen in. This scene, from a video shared on the Facebook pages of implementing partners of the USAID HIV/AIDS Flagship (UHF) Project, is one of several to raise awareness and demand PrEP as a prevention tool for men who have sex with men and transgender women in Myanmar. In these videos by celebrated members of the LGBTQ community and other educational posts, questions covered include what PrEP is, why it should be taken, and where to get it. As May Oo's friend in the video puts it, 'PrEP is a drug that can prevent HIV.'

COVID-19 Vaccine | Pfizer expiry date extended

eNCA | 19 September 2022

The expiry date for millions of COVID-19 vaccines has been extended. More than 8.5 million Pfizer doses were up for waste at the end of October. That's now changed to December and January.

School saves lives: World leaders back a courageous goal, "Education Plus", to prevent new HIV infections through education and empowerment

UNAids | 19 September 2022

At the Transforming Education Summit in New York it was announced that 12 African countries* have committed to *Education Plus*, a bold initiative to prevent HIV infections through free universal, quality secondary education for all girls and boys in Africa, reinforced through comprehensive empowerment programmes. Speaking on the Leaders Day of the Summit on behalf of the Education Plus movement, the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Winnie Byanyima said, "School saves lives. We are coming together to

champion the right for a girl to be in a classroom and in a safe classroom. Keeping girls in school helps ensure their rights and prevents HIV. We know that if a girl completes secondary education, the risk of infection reduces by 50%. That's why we've teamed up with UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN Women, with governments and with civil society, to champion the education and empowerment of adolescent girls in Africa to stop new HIV infections." Through Education Plus, champion countries across Africa are bringing sectors together to fight inequalities by ensuring access to and completion of secondary school, protecting girls and young women from HIV infection, sexual violence, teenage pregnancies and early marriages, and creating opportunities for access to education, health, and jobs.

As we fight monkeypox, we must remember the somber lessons of HIV

wbur | 19 September 2022

The racial disparities in the current monkeypox outbreak recall the early years of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Unless health leaders heed the lessons of the past and act compassionately to reach vulnerable populations, these disparities could worsen. While anyone can get monkeypox, Black and Latino men who have sex with men make up more than two-thirds of cases nationwide. However, of the 352,000 vaccines administered so far, a largely disproportionate share has gone to white men. This discrepancy is tied to fear, stigma and lack of access to cultural health resources among men of color. These groups are traditionally more closeted than their white counterparts, more likely to be transient or homeless, and often speak English as a second language. In other words, it's difficult to get treatment to the men who need it most.

WHO EMRO: Investment in genomic surveillance: a priority for the Region

Reliefweb | 19 September 2022

With the support of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean, 21 countries in the Region now have domestic genome sequencing capacity – a critical tool for understanding severe acute respiratory coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2) and its variants of concern – and other emerging pathogens' evolution and circulation. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Regional Office has been providing constant support to countries by supplying advanced genomic sequencing machines, training the health workforce in bioinformatics and genomics, boosting financial resources, and ensuring the availability of reagents and other essential supplies. These efforts have borne fruit, as 11 of the Region's countries have built their capacity to undertake routine genomic surveillance from scratch, in response to the public health impact of COVID-19 across the Region.

Pandemic took its toll on WC healthcare workers

IT Online | 19 September 2022

When the World Health Organization declared Covid-19 a global pandemic in March 2020, the Western Cape soon experienced rapid growth in the number of cases, establishing it as the epicentre of the disease in the country. Now, a new study shows that healthcare workers in the province experienced high levels of uncertainty, restriction, fear, anxiety, and exhaustion. The beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic brought about feelings of disbelief and confusion, and changes in clinical guidelines and protocols at work. Preparations for the unknown started immediately and involved gathering information, learning about the disease, adopting new protocols, and making physical preparations in emergency centres. Elzarie Theron, a research fellow in the Division of Emergency Medicine at the University of Cape Town and lead author of the paper published in the African Journal of Emergency Medicine, says: "Experiences around the unfamiliarity with Covid-19 included discussions about the authenticity of information and the integration of new information into practice. As more information became available, protocols were adjusted accordingly, leading to an environment characterised by constant change.

Healthcare problems persist at 'Ideal Clinics', studies show

Spotlight | 19 September 2022

Launched in 2013, the ideal clinic programme has been one of the Department of Health's cornerstone interventions aimed at improving the quality of care provided at public healthcare facilities in South Africa. The programme (its full name is the Ideal Clinic Realisation and Management programme – ICRM) sets out to ensure that clinics have good infrastructure, adequate staff, adequate medicine and supplies, and good administrative processes, among others. Now, four new studies together suggest that, while some progress has been made in recent years, the programme has had only a limited impact on the actual and perceived quality of care patients receive in Gauteng. In some cases, staff see ideal clinic certification as

merely a box-ticking exercise. Three of the four studies were part of a larger rapid review study of the implementation of the ICRM programme in 45 clinics in Gauteng from 2015. The studies were presented last week at the 17th annual conference of the Public Health Association of South Africa (PHASA) held in Durban. The theme of the conference was 'Building Back Better: Public Health Resilience and Recovery'

Study offers new view on air pollution and cancer link

Bloomberg | 19 September 2022

The work cracks open a whole new way of thinking about certain cancers and how to treat and even prevent them. It also suggests environmental agencies may have good reason to impose much stricter limits on air quality. Scientists typically describe carcinogens in terms of the havoc they wreak on our genome. UV exposure from sunbathing damages DNA in skin cells, and over time cells with mutations can accumulate and eventually grow with abandon. Smokers breathe in chemicals that can cause widespread mutations and alterations to DNA that can lead to lung cancer. Public health groups make sure that people know that damage is preventable — slather on the sunscreen or toss the pack of cigarettes — and drug companies have come up with medicines that target those mutations if they ignore that advice.

Is the future of SA's TB plans locked up in the mysterious minds of teens?

Bhekisisa | 20 September 2022

Fourteen months, seven facilities (in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal), two types of treatment (hundreds of pills), six months in hospital and two missed years of school. That's what it took for Akona Tshwete*, 13, to recover from tuberculosis (TB), according to his doctor, Juli Switala. Switala is a paediatrician at the health organisation, The Aurum Institute, and was speaking at last week's 7th South African TB Conference in Durban. The situation could have been avoided, says Switala — if Tshwete had access to a treatment programme geared towards his and other teens' specific needs. TB treatment can be tough to take. For teens of up to 16 years of age, drug courses are between four and six months, depending on the severity of their TB, according to World Health Organisation guidelines issued in March.

'Out of control': rise in STDs, including 26% syphilis spike, sparks US alarm

The Guardian | 20 September 2022

Sharply rising cases of some sexually transmitted diseases, including a 26% rise in new syphilis infections reported last year, are prompting US health officials to call for new prevention and treatment efforts. "It is imperative that we ... work to rebuild, innovate, and expand (STD) prevention in the US," said Leandro Mena of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in a speech on Monday at a medical conference on sexually transmitted diseases. Infections rates for some STDs, including gonorrhoea and syphilis, have been rising for years. Last year the rate of syphilis cases reached its highest since 1991 and the total number of cases hit its highest since 1948. HIV cases are also on the rise, up 16% last year.

As polio threatens a return, UK expert calls for extensive antibody testing to protect vulnerable communities

Pharmiweb.com | 20 September 2022

Positive poliovirus samples found in sewage in the UK and US have prompted fears of the return of this potentially fatal disease. A leading expert is calling for widespread polio antibody testing in affected areas, to assess the threat to individuals and communities. Concerns continue to grow that polio could make a reappearance in the UK. Following the detection of positive poliovirus samples in London sewage, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised targeted polio booster doses for all children aged between 1 and 9 in all London boroughs. It says this move will ensure a high level of protection against the virus and limit further spread. Some of the polio samples found in the UK have been genetically linked to a case reported in July 2022 in New York, where a State of Emergency was declared. The leading testing expert, Dr Quinton Fivelman PhD, Chief Scientific Officer at London Medical Laboratory, says: 'The last case of polio in the UK was in 1984 and it's obviously concerning that type 2 (PV2) polio samples have been detected in the UK's waste water. Now the virus' presence has been established in London's sewage network, testing is being quickly expanded to other areas.'

Is the future of South Africa's tuberculosis (TB) plans locked up in the mysterious minds of teens?

Mail & Guardian | 20 September 2022

Fourteen months, seven facilities (in the Eastern Cape, Western Cape and KwaZulu-Natal), two types of treatment (hundreds of pills), six months in hospital and two missed years of school. That's what it took for Akona Tshwete*,13, to recover from tuberculosis (TB), according to his doctor, Juli Switala. Switala is a paediatrician at the health organisation, The Aurum Institute, and was speaking at last week's seventh South African TB conference in Durban. The situation could have been avoided, says Switala — if Tshwete had access to a treatment programme geared towards his and other teens' specific needs. TB treatment can be tough to take. For teens of up to 16, drug courses are between four and six months, depending on the severity of their TB, according to World Health Organisation guidelines issued in March.

Malaria vaccine: the road has been long and tortuous, but we're getting there

Health-e News | 20 September 2022

A vaccine candidate, called R21, has been shown to be up to 80% effective at preventing malaria in young children, according to the latest trial results. This follows from a study published in 2021 from the same team at Oxford University which showed that the three-dose vaccine was up to 77% effective at preventing malaria. Their latest study shows that a booster, given a year later, maintains the levels of protection at 70% to 80%, suggesting that long-term protection is possible. The Oxford researchers told the BBC that their vaccine can be made for “a few dollars”, and they have a deal to manufacture over 100 million doses a year. However, there is still a large hurdle to overcome. Phase 3 clinical trials – the final phase of testing in humans before regulatory approval can be sought – are yet to be **conducted**.

Heads of State commit to Noncommunicable Disease Global Compact to save 50 million lives by 2030

World Health Organization | 21 September 2022

Today, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of WHO, launched a new report calling on global leaders to take urgent action on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs), responsible for 17 million premature deaths every year. To accelerate action Dr Tedros renewed the two-year appointment of Michael R. Bloomberg as WHO Global Ambassador for Noncommunicable Diseases and Injuries. This is Bloomberg's third reappointment as Ambassador, having first been appointed to the role in 2016. The announcement came at the first annual gathering of a Heads of State and Government Group for the Prevention of NCDs, led by the President of Ghana and the Prime Minister of Norway [1], held during the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). This follows the launch of a Global NCD Compact earlier this year by Ghana and Norway.

UNAIDS applauds donors for pledging the largest amount ever to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

UNAIDS | 21 September 2022

UNAIDS congratulates donors for increasing their contributions to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). Donors pledged US\$ 14.25 billion to support efforts to end the three pandemics with more funding set to come. Donors made their pledges at the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment Conference hosted by the President of the United States Joe Biden. “Leaders from around the world who have committed resources today are life savers. They have made an investment in the future of children, young people and those facing the disproportionate burden of global inequalities—especially young women and girls. They are helping to build resilient health systems and be better prepared to face emerging threats to global security,” said Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS.

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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

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

WHO Information Meeting on the Composition of Influenza Virus Vaccines for Use in the 2023 Southern Hemisphere Influenza Season

Date: 23 September 2022

Time: 13:00 – 15:00 UTC Time

Representatives and individuals from vaccine regulatory agencies, influenza vaccine manufacturers, members of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS), and other interested

institutions. Representatives and individuals from vaccine regulatory agencies, influenza vaccine manufacturers, members of the WHO Global Influenza Surveillance and Response System (GISRS), and other interested institutions. For registration to the information meeting, please register at the following link: https://indico.un.org/e/VCM_SH_2022_InformationMTG.

Webinar: Male Contraception – Research, contraceptive options, and policy implications

Date: 26 September 2022

Time: 16:00 – 18:00 UTC Time

September 26th 2022 is World Contraception Day! The WHO/IBP Network will convene partners to discuss the latest research, trends, and policy implications around male contraception. Over the past few decades male engagement in family planning has operated from the perspective of pregnancy prevention being primarily a woman's responsibility, with the male partner playing a secondary role in supporting women's access to and uptake of contraception. However, reinforcing men's supporting role may have inadvertently cemented women's contraceptive burden and exacerbated gender inequitable roles. The World Health Organization invites all partners to initiate a renewed commitment towards male contraception that includes not only support as partners but also as advocates for male contraceptive methods and options.

World Rabies Day 2022

World Health Organization

Date: 28 September 2022

September 28th 2022 is the 16th World Rabies Day. This year's World Rabies Day theme is: "One Health, Zero Death". 28 September this year will mark the 16th World Rabies Day. This year's theme 'Rabies: One Health, Zero Deaths' will highlight the connection of the environment with both people and animals.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Administrator

Closing Date: 2022-09-26

Data Quality Control Officer

Closing Date: 2022-09-26

Psychosocial Advisor

Closing Date: 2022-10-05

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