



HEALTH SYSTEMS TRUST BULLETIN

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Are there particular social determinants of health for the world's poorest countries?

EB Eshetu and SA Woldesenbet. Afr Health Sci. 2011 March; 11(1): 108-115. Published: March 2011.

The task of improving Social and Economic Determinants of Health (SEDH) imposes a significant challenge to health policy makers in both rich and poor countries. In recent years, while there has been increasing research interest and evidence on the workings of SEDHs, the vast majority of studies on this issue are from developed countries and emphasizes specific concerns of the developed nations of the world. Importantly, they may not fully explain the underlying causal factors and pathways of health inequality in the world's poorest countries....[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3092326/?tool=pubmed> [Accessed: 25 May 2011]

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The health systems funding platform: Is this where we thought we were going?

Peter S Hill, Peter Vermeiren, Katabaro Miti, Gorik Ooms and Wim Van Damme. Globalization and Health 2011, 7:16. Published: 19 May 2011.

In March 2009, the Task Force for Innovative International Financing for Health Systems recommended "a health systems funding platform for the Global Fund, GAVI Alliance, the World Bank and others to coordinate, mobilize, streamline and channel the flow of existing and new international resources to support national health strategies." Momentum to establish the Health Systems Funding Platform was swift, with the World Bank convening a Technical Workshop on Health Systems Strengthening (HSS), and serial meetings organized to progress the agenda. Despite its potential significance, there has been little comment in peer-reviewed

literature, though some disquiet in the international development community around the scope of the Platform and the capacity of the partners, which appears disproportionate to the available information...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/content/7/1/16/abstract> [Accessed: 25 May 2011].

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A review of health system infection control measures in developing countries: what can be learned to reduce maternal mortality

Julia Hussein, Dileep V Mavalankar, Sheetal Sharma and Lucia D'Ambruoso. Globalization and Health 2011, 7:14. Published: 19 May 2011.

A functional health system is a necessary part of efforts to achieve maternal mortality reduction in developing countries. Puerperal sepsis is an infection contracted during childbirth and one of the commonest causes of maternal mortality in developing countries, despite the discovery of antibiotics over eighty years ago. Infections can be contracted during childbirth either in the community or in health facilities. Some developing countries have recently experienced increased use of health facilities for labour and delivery care and there is a possibility that this trend could lead to rising rates of puerperal sepsis. Drug and technological developments need to be combined with effective health system interventions to reduce infections, including puerperal sepsis. This article reviews health system infection control measures pertinent to labour and delivery units in developing country health facilities...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.globalizationandhealth.com/content/7/1/14/abstract> [Accessed: 26 May 2011]

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A review of selected research priority setting processes at national level in low and middle income countries: towards fair and legitimate priority setting

Mark Tomlinson, Micky Chopra, Naeema Hoosain and Igor Rudan. Health Research Policy and Systems 2011, 9:19. Published: 15 May 2011.

It is estimated that more than \$130 billion is invested globally into health research each year. Increasingly, there is a need to set priorities in health research investments in a fair and legitimate way, using a sound and transparent methodology. In this paper we review selected priority setting processes at national level in low and middle income countries. We outline a set of criteria to assess the process of research priority setting and use these to describe and evaluate priority setting exercises that have taken place at country level. Based on these insights, recommendations are made regarding the constituents of a good priority setting process...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/9/1/19> [Accessed: 26 May 2011]

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Epidemiology and the people's health theory and context

Krieger, Nancy, Professor, Harvard School of Public Health. Oxford Scholarship. Published: May 2011.

Epidemiology is often referred to as the science of public health. However, unlike other major sciences, its theoretical foundations are rarely articulated. While the idea of epidemiologic theory may seem dry and arcane, it is at its core about explaining the people's health. It is about life and death. It is about biology and society. It is about ecology and the economy...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://bit.ly/ko0GOJ> [Accessed: 26 May 2011]

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Recent News

Leaders gather at UN headquarters in June 2011 for a high-level meeting on AIDS

UN. Published: May 2011.

Thirty years into the AIDS epidemic, and 10 years since the landmark UN General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS, the world will come together to review progress and chart the future course of the global AIDS response at the 2011 UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on AIDS from 8–10 June 2011 in New York...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/aidsmeeting2011/> [Accessed: 25 May 2011]

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Ten years of HIV treatment - a look back

PlusNews. Published: 17 May 2011..

Ten years ago, Khayelitsha, in Cape Town, was the first place to make antiretroviral drugs available to the public sector, marking a milestone in the beginning of the end of AIDS denialism and the fight for treatment in South Africa. With more than half its population unemployed, Khayelitsha is one of South Africa's largest and fastest-growing townships, and home to one of the highest burdens of HIV and TB infection nationally and globally...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=92743> [Accessed: 25 May 2011]

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A sustainable HIV response: New global health sector strategy to help chart the way forward

UNAIDS. Published: 23 May 2011..

The World Health Assembly today adopted a new comprehensive Global Health Sector Strategy for HIV/AIDS 2011-2015, spearheaded by the World Health Organization (WHO). The strategy aims to provide a detailed and comprehensive guide to how health sectors can most effectively tackle the epidemic...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2011/may/20110523awhohgss/> [Accessed: 25 May 2011]

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SA must set example in AIDS fight

Kerry Cullinan. Health-e News. Published: 25 May 2011.

South Africa should set a bold example to the rest of the world by resolving to triple the number of people on antiretroviral medication by 2015. This is according to a coalition of organisations, including the Treatment Action Campaign and Medicines sans Frontières, that is pushing for three million people to be on ARVs in four years, time...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20033158> [Accessed: 25 May 2011]

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Alarming HIV-prevalence stats

Yngve Sjolund. *Mail&Guardian*. Published: 27 May 2011.

About 50% of black gay men or men who have sex with men (MSM) in Soweto are living with HIV. Research statistics from the Global Forum on MSM and HIV estimates that HIV prevalence among the black gay male community of the township is four times higher than the general population...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://mq.co.za/article/2011-05-13-alarming-hivprevalence-stats/> [Accessed: 25 May 2011]

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Child, maternal mortality reach crisis levels

Business Live. Published: 24 May 2011.

South Africa's maternal and child mortality rates has reached crisis levels and solving the problem requires an urgent re-engineering of the country's health system, says Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.businesslive.co.za/incoming/2011/05/24/child-maternal-mortality-reach-crisis-levels> [Accessed: 25 May 2011]

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Drug price cuts secured amid growing funding fears

Plus News. Published: 19 May 2011.

Three international organizations have negotiated reductions on key first- and second-line, and paediatric antiretrovirals (ARVs) that will help countries save at least US\$600 million over the next three years...[Read More »](#)

Source: <http://www.plusnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportID=92760> [Accessed: 25 May 2011]

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Training and Resources

Global Health Observatory (GHO) website.

World Health Organization

The Global Health Observatory theme pages provide data and analyses on global health priorities. Each theme page provides information on global situation and trends highlights, using core indicators, database views, major publications and links to relevant web pages on the theme.

For more information: <http://www.who.int/gho/en/>

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Human rights and gender equality in health sector strategies: How to assess policy coherence

WHO. Published: 2011.

This tool, developed in collaboration between WHO, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is designed to support countries to strengthen national health strategies by applying human rights and gender equality commitments and obligations. The tool poses critical questions to identify gaps and opportunities in the review or reform of health sector strategies.

For more information: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241564083_eng.pdf [Approx. 1.4 Mb]

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Call for Applicants for Master's programmes in: Public Health in Health Promotion with special interest in Tobacco Control

University of Pretoria.

The University of Pretoria (UP) and the American Cancer Society (ACS) invite applications from citizens from Sub-Saharan Africa for three fully funded fellowships. The UP-ACS Fellowships are awarded for a Master of Public Health degree at the university's School of Health Systems and Public Health. Please visit <http://shsph.up.ac.za> (under Scholarships and internships) for information on how to apply. For further assistance kindly contact Joyce Jakavula at joyce.jakavula@up.ac.za.

For more information: <http://shsph.up.ac.za>

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Reports and Publications

World Health Statistics 2011

The World Health Organization. Published: 2011.

World Health Statistics 2011 contains WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 193 Member States, and includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: <http://www.who.int/whosis/whostat/2011/en/index.html> [Accessed: 25 May 2011]

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State of the World's Mothers Report

World Health Organization. Published: 2011.

Save the Children's State of the World's Mothers Report finds that the United States spends only one half of 1 percent of the federal budget fighting global poverty, but reaps big rewards. Explore the report's rankings of the world's best and worst places to be a mother and essays by prominent contributors...[Click Here for Full Report »](#)

Source: http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpl4E/b.6743707/k.219/State_of_the_Worlds_Mothers_2011.htm [Accessed: 27 May 2011]

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Conferences

5th SA AIDS Conference

When: 7-10 June 2011.
Venue: ICC, Durban, South Africa.
URL: <http://www.dirasengwe.org/5thsaidsconference.html>

The fifth South African AIDS Conference will be held 7-10 June 2011 at the ICC in Durban, South Africa. Hosted by Dira Sengwe, a not for profit organisation, the theme of this AIDS conference is "Leadership, Delivery and Accountability".

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RuDASA Rural Health Conference 2011

When: 8-10 September 2011
Venue: Village of Rhodes in the Eastern Cape.
URL: <http://www.ruralhealthconference2011.co.za/>

This year's Rural Health Conference, titled "Making Primary Health Care Better". The conference will be focusing on primary health care and its integration into district systems, as well as on the role of the multidisciplinary team in primary health care. There will also be many practical skills sessions, as well as a track for student presentations and rural health advocacy. Abstracts for presentations and posters are welcomed from all medical and allied health practitioners, as well as students of these disciplines. Presentation topics should relate to rural health and primary health care. Closing date for abstract submissions is 16 July 2011.

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7th PHASA 2011 Conference

When: 28 - 30 November 2011
Venue: Sandton Convention Centre, Gauteng, South Africa
URL: <http://www.phasaconference.org.za/index.html>

The 2011 PHASA conference will have as its focus, a scientific debate and discussion on health inequities and the role of public health leadership, education and practice in reducing health equity gaps. The theme of the conference is "Closing the health equity gap: Public health leadership, education and practice". An exciting programme of local and international speakers is being put together. Speakers will include policy-makers, leading local and international academics and representatives of international organizations. Abstract submission deadline is 4 July 2011.

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Job Opportunities

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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Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator

mothers2mothers
Closing Date: 31 May 2011

m2m seeks to appoint a Regional Monitoring and Evaluation Coordinator, based in Ulundi, Cape Town, to coordinate, implement and oversee all monitoring and evaluation initiatives in support of its programme in the assigned zone in South Africa.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/mothers2mothers-regional-monitoring-and-evaluation-coordinator-2>

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Capacity Building Officer

AIDS Foundation of South Africa
Closing Date: 8 June 2011.

The AIDS Foundation of South Africa (AFSA) is a well respected NGO that acts as an interface between donors and community-based organisations (CBOs) working in the HIV/AIDS sector by placing donor funds with strategically selected CBOs and providing them with ongoing management, technical support and capacity-building. AFSA is seeking to appoint a Capacity Building Officer, based in Durban, on a one-year fixed term contract.

Please view the website for more details <http://www.ngopulse.org/opportunity/aids-foundation-south-africa-capacity-building-officer>

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