28 May 2010

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Academic and Peer Reviewed Articles

Neonatal, post neonatal, childhood, and under-5 mortality for 187 countries, 1970 - 2010: A systematic analysis of progress towards Millennium Development Goal 4
Rajaratnam JK, Marcus JR, Flaxman AD, Wang H, Levin-Rector A, Dwyer L, Costa M, Prof Lopez AD, Prof Murray CJL. The Lancet. Published: 24 May 2010.

Previous assessments have highlighted that less than a quarter of countries are on track to achieve Millennium Development Goal 4 (MDG 4), which calls for a two-thirds reduction in mortality in children younger than 5 years between 1990 and 2015. In view of policy initiatives and investments made since 2000, it is important to see if there is acceleration towards the MDG 4 target. We assessed levels and trends in child mortality for 187 countries from 1970 to 2010...Read More »

Source: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60703-9/fulltext [Accessed: 25 May 2010] [NB: Free access with registration]

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Evaluating priority setting success in healthcare: A pilot study
Sibbald S, Gibson J, Singer P, Upshur R, Martin D. BMC Health Services Research 2010, 10:131.

In healthcare today, decisions are made in the face of serious resource constraints. Healthcare managers are struggling to provide high quality care, manage resources effectively, and meet changing patient needs. Healthcare managers who are constantly making difficult resource decisions desire a way to improve their priority setting processes. Despite the wealth of existing priority setting literature (for example, programme budgeting and marginal analysis, accountability for reasonableness, the 'describe-evaluate-improve' strategy) there are still no tools to evaluate how healthcare resources are prioritised...Read More »

Source: http://www.biomedcentral.com/content/pdf/1472-6963-10-131.pdf (Approximately: 215 KB) [Accessed: 24 May 2010]

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Scale-up of services and research priorities for diagnosis, management, and control of tuberculosis: a call to action
Marais BJ, Raviglione MC, Donald PR, Harries AD, Kritski AL, Graham SM, El-Sadr WM, Harrington M, Churchyard G, Mwaba P, Sanne I, Kaufma

Substantial progress has been made in the past 15 years to scale up diagnostic services and treatment of tuberculosis. By 2008, virtually all count had adopted WHO's Stop TB Strategy; the global case detection rate of sputum-smear-positive tuberculosis rose from 15% in 1995 to 61%, and treatment success rate from 77% to 87%. However, despite these important achievements, control of the global tuberculosis epidemic rema elusive, and present control efforts need to be improved if elimination is ever to be achieved. Global burdens of tuberculosis remain unprecedente high, especially in countries with concomitant HIV/AIDS or drug-resistant tuberculosis epidemics....Read More »

Source: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60554-5/fulltext [Accessed: 25 May 2010] [NB: Free access with registration]

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Tuberculosis control and elimination 2010—50: cure, care, and social development
Dr Lönnroth K, Castro KG, Chakaya JM, Chauhan LS, Floyd K, Glaziou P, Raviglione MC. The Lancet, Volume 375, Issue 9728, Pages 1814 – 18. Published: 22 May 2010.

Rapid expansion of the standardised approach to tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment that is recommended by WHO allowed more than 36 mil people to be cured between 1995 and 2008, averting up to 6 million deaths. Yet tuberculosis remains a severe global public health threat. There more than 9 million new cases every year worldwide, and the incidence rate is falling at less than 1% per year. Although the overall target related the Millennium Development Goals of halting and beginning to reverse the epidemic might have already been reached in 2004, the more impor long-term elimination target set for 2050 will not be met with present strategies and instruments. Several key challenges persist. Many vulnera people do not have access to affordable services of sufficient quality...Read More »

Source: http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(10)60483-7/fulltext?_eventId=login [Accessed: 25 May 2010] [NB: Free access with registration]

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Who needs what from a national health research system: lessons from reforms to the English Department of Health's R&D system
Hanney SR, Kuruvilla S, Soper B, Mays N.Health Research Policy and Systems 2010, 8:11. Published: 13 May 2010.

Health research systems consist of diverse groups who have some role in health research, but the boundaries around such a system are clear-cut. To explore what various stakeholders need we reviewed the literature including that on the history of English health R&D reforms, and also applied some relevant conceptual frameworks. We first describe the needs and capabilities of the main groups of stakeholders in health resea systems, and explain key features of policymaking systems within which these stakeholders operate in the UK. The five groups are policymakers (a health care managers), health professionals, patients and the general public, industry, and researchers....Read More »

Source: http://www.health-policy-systems.com/content/pdf/1478-4505-8-11.pdf (Approximately: 323 KB) [Accessed: 25 May 2010]

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Recent News

Minister to apply measures to reduce high mortality rates
Health-e. Published: 18 May 2010

National Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi has told the World Health Assembly that he would apply basic interventions to reduce high morta rates and ensure that the country meets the Millennium Development Goals by 2015... Read More »

Source: http://www.health-e.org.za/documents/025a7092dd66b90c2832598a02163a15.pdf (Approximately : 40 KB) [Accessed: 24 May 2010]

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Global death rates drop for children 5 or younger
Kaiser Daily Global Health Policy Report. Published: 24 May 2010

Researchers estimate that 7.7 million children under the age of 5 will die this year, an indication that global child deaths "seem to have fallen fa: than officials thought," according to a study, published online Monday in the Lancet... Read More »

Source: http://globalhealth.kff.org/Daily-Reports/2010/May/24/GH-052410-Child-Deaths-Study.aspx [Accessed: 25 May 2010]

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Eastern Cape: health system reform debated
Health-e. Published: 24 May 2010

Drug shortages and lack of ambulances emerged as some of the most pressing health system issues in the Eastern Cape following a recent mee of community based organisations. Organised by the Black Sash in partnership with the University of Cape Town's Health Economics Unit Health-e News Service, the provincial health workshops will travel to all provinces in South Africa culminating in a report which will be shared Government once public consultations are held on National Health Insurance (NHI)... Read More »

Source: http://www.health-e.org.za/news/article.php?uid=20032799 [Accessed: 25 May 2010]

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Reports

Improving Health Service Delivery in Developing Countries
Peters D, El-Sahart S, Siadat B, Janovsky K, and Vujicic M.The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank 2009.

Improving health services is a crucial part of achieving the Millennium Development Goals in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Despite th abundance of evidence on the efficacy of interventions that can save lives at low cost, the pathways to delivering health services effectively in LMIC

are not well known. Decision makers around the world need better information about which strategies to improve health services work best, or how make current strategies more effective. Click Here for Full Report »

Source: http://www.enrecahealth.dk/news/e-learning/Improving_Health_Service_Delivery.pdf (Approximately: 2422 KB) [Accessed: 24 May 2010]

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Publications

The District Health Barometer 2008/09
Health Systems Trust. Published: May 2010.

District health managers and policy makers across South Africa and world-wide can now enjoy internet access to the District Health Barome 2008/09. Keeping abreast with the latest international publishing trends, the District Health Barometer 2008/09 has been published on the H website and is also available on CD. Click Here for more info »

To download each chapter or the complete PDF: http://www.hst.org.za/publications/864

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Equity, Social Determinants and Public Health
World Health Organization

This book analyses the impact of social determinants on specific health conditions. Stemming from the recommendations of the Commission Social Determinants of Health, promising interventions to improve health equity are presented for the areas of: alcohol-related disord cardiovascular diseases, child health and nutrition, diabetes, food safety, maternal health, mental health, neglected tropical diseases, oral hea pregnancy outcomes, tobacco and health, tuberculosis, and violence and injuries. Click Here for more info »

Source: http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2010/9789241563970_eng.pdf (Approximately: 2MB) [Accessed: 24 May 2010]

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Health Systems in Action: An ehandbook for leaders and managers
Management Sciences for Health

This electronic resource provides managers of health programmes and health services with practical information to help strengthen health syste Health Systems in Action will help health workers align the building blocks of a health system for greater health impact. The eHandbook focuses leading and managing, promoting good governance, planning, managing human resources, managing finances, monitoring and evaluation, managing health service delivery. Click Here for more info »

Source: http://www.msh.org/Documents/upload/msh_eHandbook_complete.pdf (Approximately: 3769 KB) [Accessed: 21 May 2010]

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Conferences

First Southern African Telemedicine Conference
16-17 September 2010. MRC Conference centre, Parow Valley, Cape Town, South Africa
URL: http://www.satelemedicine.co.za/index.html

The South African Medical Research Council (SA MRC) in conjunction with MTN and the University of Stellenbosch will be hosting the 1st South African Telemedicine Conference which hopes to bring together researchers, professionals, academics, health practitioners, students, he analysts, etc. working in the discipline of telemedicine. The theme for this first Southern African Telemedicine conference is "Bridging the gap signify the promise of telemedicine to bridge distances in the delivery of healthcare, but also to express our desire to bridge the gaps betwe Telemedicine role players in Southern Africa.

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African Indigenous Knowledge Systems Conference
2-3 June 2010. The Park Hyatt Rosebank, Johannesburg, South Africa
URL: http://www.archivalplatform.org/conferences/entry/indigenous_knowledge/

This conference will review and examine policies and developments, around AIKS, that have been put in place over the last ten years in Sub-Saha Africa. It will deliberate on regional challenges for regional AIKS policy initiatives. Some of the topical issues that will be covered include: contribution of African Traditional Medicine to primary health care, HIV, AIDS and TB prevention; AIKS in promoting economic development; and role of translation and interpreting in promoting and developing indigenous languages amongst others.

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Training and Resources

M&E of HIV/AIDS Programmes Workshop
Measure Evaluation.
Date: 2-13 May 2010

Measure Evaluation is pleased to announce an opportunity for training in monitoring and evaluation for professionals in the Anglophone Africa reg This two-week course is offered in collaboration with the School of Health Sciences and Public Health and Continuing Education at the Universit Pretoria and will provide intensive training in the fundamental concepts and tools for monitoring and evaluating HIV/AIDS programmes. The cours designed for national and sub-national level M&E professionals and their counterparts, assistants and advisors who are involved with implementation of HIV/AIDS programmes.

Source:
http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/training/workshops/me-hiv-aids-programs-south-africa/m-e-of-hiv-aids-programs-workshop-south-africa-august-2(
[Accessed: 25 May 2010]

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Supporting the Use of Research Evidence (SURE) for Policy in African Health Systems
Evidence-Informed Policy Network

These educational video and audio documentaries let people describe in their own words how the SURE project, a collaboration of EVIPNet Af
and REACH, is working to improve health systems in Africa by making better use of research evidence to inform decisions. The documentaries
be downloaded and used in meetings or broadcasts to introduce concepts, raise awareness and generate discussion about evidence-informed he
policymaking. They are targeted at a broad audience, including policymakers, researchers, stakeholders and the general public.

Source: http://www.evipnet.org/local/SURE%20Website/Videosaudios.htm [Accessed: 24 May 2010]

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Guides for preparing and using policy briefs
Evidence-Informed Policy Network

The SURE guides provide guidelines and resources for preparing and using policy briefs. Policymakers, those who support them and stakehold
have limited resources for producing and using policy briefs. Consequently, only a limited number of policy briefs can be produced and it is necess
to decide which issues to address out of all the potential issues for which a policy brief might be helpful.

Source: http://www.evipnet.org/local/SURE%20Website/guides.htm

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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 assis
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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