

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Everyday resilience in district health systems: emerging insights from the front lines in Kenya and South Africa

BMJ | Published: 2 June 2017.

Lucy Gilson, Edwine Barasa, Nonhlanhla Nxumalo, Susan Cleary, Jane Goudge, Sassy Molyneux, Benjamin Tsofa, Uta Lehmann

Recent global crises have brought into sharp relief the absolute necessity of resilient health systems that can recognise and react to societal crises. While such crises focus the global mind, the real work lies, however, in being resilient in the face of routine, multiple challenges. But what are these challenges and what is the work of nurturing everyday resilience in health systems? This paper considers these questions, drawing on long-term, primarily qualitative research conducted in three different district health system settings in Kenya and South Africa, and adopting principles from case study research methodology and meta-synthesis in its analytic approach. The paper presents evidence of the instability and daily disruptions managed at the front lines of the district health system.

Antimicrobial resistance and universal health coverage

BMJ | Published: 31 October 2017.

Gerald Bloom, Gemma Buckland Merrett, Annie Wilkinson, Vivian Lin, Sarah Paulin

The WHO launched a Global Action Plan on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in 2015. World leaders in the G7, G20 and the UN General Assembly have declared AMR to be a global crisis. World leaders have also adopted universal health coverage (UHC) as a key target under the sustainable development goals. This paper argues that neither initiative is likely to succeed in isolation from the other and that the policy goals should be to both provide access to appropriate antimicrobial treatment and reduce the risk of the emergence and spread of resistance by taking a systems approach.

Changing the South African national antiretroviral therapy guidelines: The role of cost modelling

PlosOne | Published: 30 October 2017.

Gesine Meyer-Rath, Leigh F. Johnson, Yogan Pillay, Mark Blecher, Alana T. Brennan, Lawrence Long, Harry Moultrie, Ian Sanne, et al

[The researchers] were tasked by the South African Department of Health to assess the cost implications to the largest ART programme in the world of adopting sets of ART guidelines issued by the World Health Organization between 2010 and 2016.

The WHO public health approach to HIV treatment and care: looking back and looking ahead

The Lancet | Published: 20 October 2017.

Dr Nathan Ford, Andrew Ball, Rachel Baggaley, Marco Vitoria, Daniel Low-Beer, Martina Penazzato, Lara Vojnov, Silvia Bertagnolio, et al

In 2006, WHO set forth its vision for a public health approach to delivering antiretroviral therapy. This approach has been broadly adopted in resource-poor settings and has provided the foundation for scaling up treatment to over 19.5 million people. There is a global commitment to end the AIDS epidemic as a public health threat by 2030 and, to support this goal, there are opportunities to adapt the public health approach to meet the ensuing challenges. These challenges include the need to improve identification of people with HIV infection through expanded approaches to testing; further simplify and improve treatment and laboratory monitoring; adapt the public health approach to concentrated epidemics; and link HIV testing, treatment, and care to HIV prevention. Implementation of these key public health principles will bring countries closer to the goals of controlling the HIV epidemic and providing universal health coverage.

Socioeconomic differences in mortality in the antiretroviral therapy era in Agincourt, rural South Africa, 2001–13: a population surveillance analysis

The Lancet | Published: September 2017.

Chodziwadziwa W Kabudula, Brian Houle, Mark A Collinson, Kathleen Kahn, Frances Xavier Gómez-Olivé, Stephen Tollman, Samuel J Clark

Understanding the effects of socioeconomic disparities in health outcomes is important to implement specific preventive actions. We assessed socioeconomic disparities in mortality indicators in a rural South African population over the period 2001–13.

Mapping under-5 and neonatal mortality in Africa, 2000–15: a baseline analysis for the Sustainable Development Goals

The Lancet | Published: 25 September 2017.

Nick Golding, Roy Burstein, Joshua Longbottom, Annie J Browne, Nancy Fullman, , Aaron Osgood-Zimmerman, Lucas Earl, Samir Bhatt

During the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) era, many countries in Africa achieved marked reductions in under-5 and neonatal mortality. Yet the pace of progress toward these goals substantially varied at the national level, demonstrating an essential need for tracking even more local trends in child mortality. With the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, which established ambitious targets for improving child survival by 2030, optimal intervention planning and targeting will require understanding of trends and rates of progress at a higher spatial resolution. In this study, we aimed to generate high-resolution estimates of under-5 and neonatal all-cause mortality across 46 countries in Africa.

What is health systems responsiveness? Review of existing knowledge and proposed conceptual framework

BMJ | Published: 31 October 2017.

Tolib Mirzoev, Sumit Kane

Responsiveness is a key objective of national health systems. Responsive health systems anticipate and adapt to existing and future health needs, thus contributing to better health outcomes. Of all the health systems objectives, responsiveness is the least studied, which perhaps reflects lack of comprehensive frameworks that go beyond the normative characteristics of responsive services. This paper contributes to a growing, yet limited, knowledge on this topic.

Contraceptive Practice in sub-Saharan Africa

Population and Development Review | Published: 31 March 2017.

Amy O Tsui, Win Brown, Qingfeng Li

Forty eight of the African continent's 54 sovereign states are located in the Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) region, with the government of each defining and shaping its own health services and delivery systems.

This paper reviews the trends and patterns of contraceptive practice in the region. Using survey data available from the Demographic and Health Surveys and Performance Monitoring and Accountability 2020, the study finds modern contraceptive practice to be on the rise overall but with much geographic variation.

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RECENT NEWS

Life Esidimeni: Arbitration highlights government culpability

Daily Maverick | 31 October 2017.

The Life Esidimeni arbitration hearings have exceeded expectations, allowing relatives to express their pain and accused individuals a chance to be cross-examined. The process, however, is incomplete as we wait for the architects of the disaster to testify.

Soaring legal claims could sink health system

Times Live | 31 October 2017.

More than 5,500 medical negligence claims had been made against the Health Department since 2014, Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said. And the number grows each year.

Self-testing app to be introduced across 60 cities with high HIV rates

Avert | 24 October 2017.

On World Development Information Day, we look at an innovative HIV self-testing app being introduced to all UNAIDS Fast-Track Cities which aims to bridge the divide between testing, treatment and care.

The 'superantibiotics' that could save us from bacteria apocalypse

The Guardian | 23 October 2017.

With the rise of bugs that are resistant to virtually everything medical science can throw at them, scientists are now hoping to re-engineer existing antibiotics to make them thousands of times more powerful.

Dealing with local diseases helps countries tackle new outbreaks

The Conversation | 19 October 2017.

It's hard to predict when and where an infectious disease will emerge. It could be anywhere on the planet. And it could affect humans, animals or plants. That's why countries need surveillance systems that can detect and respond to outbreaks wherever and whenever they occur. Detecting them early is vital because it means that measures can be put in place quickly to control the spread of a disease, reducing its size and impact.

SA likely to miss 2018 target on wiping out malaria

BD Live | 1 November 2017.

Health officials step up scrutiny of SA's malaria control programme after sharp rise in cases.

WHO report signals urgent need for greater political commitment to end tuberculosis

World Health Organisation | 30 October 2017.

Global efforts to combat tuberculosis (TB) have saved an estimated 53 million lives since 2000 and reduced the TB mortality rate by 37%, according to the Global TB Report 2017, released by WHO [on 30 October]. Despite these achievements, the latest picture is grim.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

VMMC Online Training Hub

AidsFree

The VMMC Online Training Hub (OTH) is an eLearning platform that provides classes, resources, and communities of practice to help clinicians advance their skills and knowledge around performing voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC). The OTH will be used to cover the didactic, theoretical VMMC

information currently learned through in-person workshops. Learners will complete and pass this online course before proceeding on to their in-person clinical practicum.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Global Tuberculosis Report

World Health Organisation | Published: 30 October 2017.

The purpose of WHO's Global Tuberculosis Report is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic and of progress in care and prevention at global, regional and country levels.¹ This is done in the context of recommended global TB strategies and associated targets, and broader development goals. For the period 2016–2035, these are WHO's End TB Strategy and the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which share a common aim: to end the global TB epidemic.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Health Systems Strengthening through Quality Improvement Summit 2017

28-30 November 2017

Indaba Hotel & Conference Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa

International Conference on AIDS and STIs in Africa

4-9 December 2017

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

Africa Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare (Institute for Healthcare Improvement)

19-21 February 2018

Durban International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Star for Life: Professional Nurse / Project coordinator

Closing Date: 3 November 2017

FHI360: Educator Trainers

Closing Date: 3 November 2017

SolidarMed: Tanzania Country Director and Clinical Training Project Manager

Closing Date: 30 November 2017

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