

HST Bulletin



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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

UN political declaration on HIV and AIDS: where to begin?

Nana K Poku

The Lancet. Published: 20 September 2016.

In June, 2016, the UN General Assembly made a political commitment to end AIDS by 2030, endorsing the fast-track approach of the UNAIDS. This political declaration is unflinching in its characterisation of AIDS as “a paramount health, development, human rights and social challenge”, and is detailed about the structural, programmatic, and normative challenges facing the global response to the HIV epidemic. But as Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of UNAIDS, asserted at the 21st International AIDS Conference held in Durban, South Africa, in July, 2016, “If we are serious about ending AIDS, it is high time to make funding sustainable and predictable”.

Countdown to 2015 country case studies: what can analysis of national health financing contribute to understanding MDG 4 and 5 progress?

Carlyn Mann, Courtney Ng, Nadia Akseer, Zulfiqar A Bhutta, Josephine Borghi, Tim Colbourn, et al
BioMedical Central. Published: 12 September 2016.

Countdown to 2015 (Countdown) supported countries to produce case studies that examine how and why progress was made toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 4 and 5. Analysing how health-financing data explains improvements in RMNCH outcomes was one of the components to the case studies.

Quality maternity care for every woman, everywhere: a call to action

Marjorie Koblinsky, Cheryl A Moyer, Clara Calvert, James Campbell, Oona M R Campbell, Andrea B Feigl, Wendy J Graham, et al

The Lancet. Published: 15 September 2016.

To improve maternal health requires action to ensure quality maternal health care for all women and girls, and to guarantee access to care for those outside the system. In this paper, we highlight some of the most pressing issues in maternal health and ask: what steps can be taken in the next 5 years to catalyse action toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goal target of less than 70 maternal deaths per 100 000 livebirths by 2030, with no single country exceeding 140? What steps can be taken to ensure that high-quality maternal health care is prioritised for every woman and girl everywhere?

The Role of Nurses and Community Health Workers in Confronting Neglected Tropical Diseases in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review

Andrew G. Corley, Clifton P. Thornton, Nancy E. Glass

PlosOne. Published: 15 September 2016.

Neglected tropical diseases produce an enormous burden on many of the poorest and most disenfranchised populations in sub-Saharan Africa. Similar to other developing areas throughout the world, this region's dearth of skilled health providers renders Western-style primary care efforts to address such diseases unrealistic. Consequently, many countries rely on their corps of nurses and community health workers to engage with underserved and hard-to-reach populations in order provide interventions against these maladies. This article attempts to cull together recent literature on the impact that nurses and community health workers have had on neglected tropical diseases.

Countdown to 2015 country case studies: systematic tools to address the “black box” of health systems and policy assessment

Neha S. Singh, Luis Huicho, Hoviyeh Afnan Holmes, Theopista John, Allisyn C. Moran, Tim Colbourn, et al

Biomed Central. Published: 12 September 2016.

Evaluating health systems and policy (HSP) change and implementation is critical in understanding reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) progress within and across countries. Whilst data for health outcomes, coverage and equity have advanced in the last decade, comparable analyses of HSP changes are lacking. We present a set of novel tools developed by Countdown to 2015 (Countdown) to systematically analyse and describe HSP change for RMNCH indicators, enabling multi-country comparisons.

Transparency of participant incentives in HIV research

Brandon Brown, Jerome T Galea, Peter Davidson, Kaveh Khoshnood

The Lancet. Published: October 2016.

Incentives in research encourage participation, can help to fairly compensate participants for time and effort, and can retain study participants in sufficient numbers. However, little attention has been given to defining what constitute fair incentives, even in HIV research, which often includes vulnerable populations. Neither the Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences (CIOMS) guidelines nor the US Code of Federal Regulations specifically address incentives, and there are few empirical data for defining undue influence of incentives in research, including medical benefits.

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RECENT NEWS

NDoH Finalising Draft of NHI Financing Models

EHealth News

Published: 26 September 2016.

Health Minister, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, has announced that a draft set of the National Health Insurance (NHI) 'financing scenarios' is expected to be ready for provincial health MECs in October.

Rising Healthcare Costs in South Africa

EHealth News

Published: 26 September 2016.

The funding of healthcare in South Africa is a highly contentious issue, involving a variety of stakeholders. While government is planning their National Health Insurance (**NHI**) model, private healthcare providers and medical aid schemes are watching in anticipation to determine how it will affect them. In the interim, it is business as usual.

Leaders launch “a super-fast-track framework for ending AIDS among children, adolescents and young women by 2020

Science Speaks

Published: 14 September 2016.

Global health leaders gathered on Capitol Hill Wednesday to announce a new set of HIV response goals and to say with an increasingly familiar blend of optimism and realism that while the work that is needed to stop the pandemic's toll of preventable illness and deaths may be clearer than it's ever been, it may also be more challenged.

“One-stop shop” brings life-saving HIV care, reproductive health to Botswana's women.

United Populations Fund

Published: 7 September 2016.

When Rose Matuulane was pregnant five years ago, she had to wait for a nurse to visit her small village, Otse, to provide antenatal check-ups. When the nurse could not make it, Ms Matuulane had to travel 84km to the nearest clinic, in Shoghong, arriving the day before so that she could rise early and queue for hours.

UN Report strengthens case for patient law reform in SA and other developing countries

Treatment Action Campaign

Published: 14 September 2016.

The Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) and SECTION27 welcome the release of the United Nation Secretary General's High-Level Panel Report on Access to Medicines. This UN report makes a number of important recommendations regarding how society pays for medicines and for the research and development of new medicines. While we welcome several recommendations, they should be viewed as a minimum standard that need to be built upon in order to fully remedy the failures in the current patent system and ensure everyone has access to the medicines they need.

World lagging behind on global health targets, researchers warn

The Guardian

21 September 2016.

Substantial change will be required in the way global epidemics such as tuberculosis and HIV are treated if the international community is to eliminate them completely by 2030.

Abstract Call for SVRI Forum 2017: Sexual Violence Research Initiative

SVRI Forum.

Published: September 2016

We are delighted to invite you to submit abstracts, attend and register for the largest world-wide conference dedicated to research on prevention and response to sexual and intimate partner violence.

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TRAINING AND RESOURCES

Developing African academics to approach health challenges in Africa: 2017 PhD

Scholarships

HEARD

Published: 20 September 2016.

The aim of the doctoral programme is to produce a high calibre of leaders in the area of health research. The programme provides robust training to emerging scholars on understanding how evidence-based research interfaces with policy issues, in solving complex health problems. Further practical training in devising, evaluating or implementing policy solutions is also offered. Graduates are supported as early career scientists through post-doctoral scholarships and related professional development initiatives.

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PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

Documenting Good Practices in Primary Health Care, KwaZulu-Natal

Health Systems Trust

Published: August 2016.

Documenting Good Practices in Primary Health Care, KwaZulu-Natal grew out of a Health Systems Trust project in KwaZulu-Natal Province in South Africa funded by The Atlantic Philanthropies. Recognising the presence of noteworthy health service interventions in the province depicting good practice and their capacity to stimulate innovation and empower healthcare workers on the ground, a decision was made to capture a selection of these and analyse them for themes that appear to contribute to their success. Such lessons could well serve to enhance the Minister of Health's current scaling-up of HIV and TB outputs in terms of the newly initiated UNAIDS 90-90-90 programme.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

The Global Health Practitioner Conference 2016

13 - 14 October 2016

Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington DC, USA

<https://conference.coregroup.org/>

National Pharmacy Conference

21 - 24 October 2016

International Convention Centre, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

<http://www.sapconference.za.org/>

IFH Durban 40th World Hospital Congress

30 October - 3 November 2016

International Convention Centre, Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

<http://integratedcarefoundation.org/events/ihf-durban-40th-world-hospital-congress-2016>

2016 2nd World Breastfeeding Conference

11 - 14 December 2016

Johannesburg, South Africa

<http://worldbreastfeedingconference.org/home.html>

3rd Building Children's Nursing for Africa Conference

28-30 March 2017

The River Club, Cape Town, South Africa

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Please click on the job title for more information.

Health Systems Trust: Communications Assistant

Closing date: 14 October 2016

Health Systems Trust: Business Development Analyst

Closing date: 14 October 2016



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