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ACADEMIC AND PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Corrigendum: The influence of HIV infection and antiretroviral treatment on pulmonary function in individuals in an urban setting in sub-Saharan Africa

South African Journal of HIV Medicine | 20 May 2022

Van den Berg, Shaddock, Stacey, Feldman, Barth et al.

Approximately 70% of all people with HIV infection live in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), with South Africa constituting the largest HIV epidemic profile in the world. Before the roll-out of antiretroviral therapy (ART) programmes, the most frequent complications of HIV infection included pulmonary infections, which were a major cause of morbidity and mortality rates. The widespread use of ART for the treatment of HIV has contributed to an increased life expectancy among people living with HIV (PLHIV), which is subsequently associated with increases in non-communicable diseases in PLHIV. Among non-communicable diseases, obstructive lung disorders (OLDs) constitute a major class. The burden of chronic respiratory diseases is generally increasing across the globe, and asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) are among the main causes of mortality and morbidity. Whilst risk factors, such as smoking and opportunistic infections, contribute to this increased risk, the literature suggests that HIV infection and ART use may be associated with the development of OLDs. Viral suppression resulting from ART could contribute to the preservation of lung function. However, some studies suggest that there is a direct negative effect of ART on pulmonary function.

Covid-19—How Europe’s vaccine donations went tragically wrong

British Medical Journal | 23 May 2022

Hordijk, Patnaik

On 21 December 2021, a truck piled with brown cardboard boxes drove to the Goja rubbish dump in Abuja, Nigeria. Inside the boxes were a million doses of AstraZeneca’s covid-19 vaccine, which were tipped onto the heap, among dirty plastic bags and papers. Two months earlier, Nigeria had agreed to receive 2.6 million doses of the vaccine from the Covax facility, an initiative set up to distribute covid-19 vaccines equitably worldwide. The vaccines, in large part coming from Europe, had been close to expiry. “Some of these vaccines came in with a shelf life of about four weeks,” said Faisal Shaibu, a Nigerian government official tasked with organising vaccination of the country’s 200 million population against covid-19. Following quality inspections and regional allocations, Nigeria administered 1.53 million doses.

But the rest were thrown away. Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya, and Indonesia have destroyed vaccines received from Europe and North America because they arrived close to expiry. According to the pharmaceuticals industry, supply of vaccines is no longer a problem. ‘With almost a billion vaccines now being produced every month, countries’ lack of capacity to vaccinate is now the main barrier to stopping covid-19,’ said Thomas Cueni, director general of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations.

“You see this thing is hard... ey, this thing is painful”: The burden of the provider role and construction of masculinities amongst Black male mineworkers in Marikana, South Africa

Plos One | 23 May 2022

Sikweyiya, Nkosi, Langa, Operario, Lurie

In this paper we examine men’s insights on how migration and minework affect their perceptions and performances of masculinity in the settings of minework and in their “real home” communities and explore the potential consequences of masculinity constructions for their own and their family’s health. This study used qualitative methodology. Findings are based on 13 in-depth interviews conducted over two phases of data collection with adult men who were either working or seeking work in the mines in North-West province, South Africa. Data suggest that for these men, migration to and working in the mines meant they must straddle the temporal space of work and the rural home space. For these men, the role of provider was an inescapable demand and, resulting from migration for work, their experience of fatherhood was solely centred on material provision with little or no emotional involvement with their children. Findings further illustrate the impact of minework on men’s health and livelihoods—resulting in some men reimagining and seeking to create alternative career paths for their children. There is pressing need for labour reforms on the employment conditions of low-paid mine workers to enable them to reinforce their livelihoods and secure better futures for their families. Gender-transformative interventions which aim to transform ideas of masculinity that emphasize providing rather than emotional involvement with children are also needed.

The impact of COVID-19 on essential health service provision for endemic infectious diseases in the South-East Asia region: A systematic review

The Lancet Regional Health, South-East Asia | 24 May 2022

Laura Downey, Thomas Gadsden, Victor Del Rio Vilas, David Peiris and Stephen Jan

There is increasing evidence that the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted adversely on the provision of essential health services. The South East Asia region (SEAR) has experienced extremely high rates of COVID-19 infection, and continues to bear a significant proportion of communicable disease burden worldwide.

Living standard and access to tetanus toxoid immunization among women in Bangladesh

BMC Public Health | 24 May 2022

Ummay Nayeema Islam, Kanchan Kumar sen & Wasimul Bari

Although Bangladesh has an impressive track record in the reduction of maternal and child mortality, tetanus, a dreadful disease, impedes the way to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in this respect. Sufficient doses of tetanus toxoid containing vaccine during pregnancy ensure immunity against tetanus to mothers as well as newborns. Since inequalities persist across vaccination programs globally, in this paper, an attempt has been made to examine whether tetanus toxoid immunization (TTI) status among the women of reproductive age in Bangladesh for their most recent live birth born preceding 2 years of the survey changes with their living standard index (LSI).

Assessment of alcohol utilization during pregnancy and its associated factors among reproductive women in Mecha Woreda of North Western Ethiopia

BMC Women’s Health | 25 May 2022

Getaneh Bizuayehu Demeke & Eyayu Kasseye Bayu

Pregnancy is a time when women are making many changes, including the patterns of alcohol consumption. Alcohol consumption during pregnancy encourages the risks of mothers and unborn child. Alcohol use during pregnancy can result in prematurity, brain damage, growth restriction, developmental delay and social, emotional and behavioral deficits, particularly in developing countries.

Longer duration of exclusive breastfeeding has protective effect on childhood asthma

ScienceDaily | 25 May 2022

Pregnant women and new mothers are often presented with information on the benefits of breastfeeding their infants. A new study in *Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology*, the scientific journal of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (ACAAI) shows that a longer period of exclusive breastfeeding was associated with decreased odds of current asthma.

What next? Expanding our view of city planning and global health, and implementing and monitoring evidence-informed policy

The Lancet Global Health | June 2022

Giles-Corti, Vernez Moudon, Lowe, Cerin, Boeing, et al.

This Series on urban design, transport, and health aimed to facilitate development of a global system of health-related policy and spatial indicators to assess achievements and deficiencies in urban and transport policies and features. This final paper in the Series summarises key findings, considers what to do next, and outlines urgent key actions. Our study of 25 cities in 19 countries found that, despite many well intentioned policies, few cities had measurable standards and policy targets to achieve healthy and sustainable cities. Available standards and targets were often insufficient to promote health and wellbeing, and health-supportive urban design and transport features were often inadequate or inequitably distributed. City planning decisions affect human and planetary health and amplify city vulnerabilities, as the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted. Hence, we offer an expanded framework of pathways through which city planning affects health, incorporating 11 integrated urban system policies and 11 integrated urban and transport interventions addressing current and emerging issues. Our call to action recommends widespread uptake and further development of our methods and open-source tools to create upstream policy and spatial indicators to benchmark and track progress; unmask spatial inequities; inform interventions and investments; and accelerate transitions to net zero, healthy, and sustainable cities.

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RECENT PUBLIC HEALTH NEWS

WHO drug-resistant TB guidelines 2022: what is new?

The Union | 19 May 2022

In May 2022, WHO released “Rapid communication: key changes to the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis”, a prelude to the much-awaited complete version of the guidelines, to be released towards the end of this year. This document is timely and necessary, as with 500,000 new cases of multidrug- or rifampicin-resistant TB (MDR/RR-TB) each year, only 1 in 3 cases receive treatment. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic may have contributed to the further spread of the MDR/RR-TB strains of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

Statutory rape: An underestimated gender-based violence issue

Health-E News | 19 May 2022

Mulalo Mutshekwa* fell pregnant in 2019 when she was 15-years-old. The grade 10 learner at the time, is from Makovha, a village in the Vhembe district in Limpopo. She was in a relationship with her then 18-year-old boyfriend. “I met him at church,” she says. “We both attend the Zion Apostolic Church. We would see each other during conferences and that is where we exchanged phone numbers. “We started chatting and that is when we fell in love”. During this time, Mutshekwa fell pregnant and was forced to change schools at the end of 2019. She went to live with her boyfriend’s mother in another village, who promised to take care of her.

Limpopo eye patients waiting in the dark for operations

Health-e News | 20 May 2022

Patients in need of eye operations in the Sekhukhune and Capricorn districts in Limpopo are disappointed because the Warmbath Hospital in Waterberg District has not called them despite promising to do so a few months ago. Joshua Leselo* (71) from the Phokoane village near Jane Furse, Sekhukhune district

desperately needs an operation to restore his full vision. "I started to lose much of my vision some three years back," Leselo says. "I went to Jane Furse hospital in Sekhukhune district and was diagnosed with [a] cataracts, (a condition in which a person's vision becomes cloudy leading to blindness). There is no eye doctor at Jane Furse hospital. And during September last year, I heard about FH Odendaal hospital in Modimolle in the Waterberg district which is about 300km away. I then find other patients to team up with so we can hire private cars to go there." He found out that before he could go to FH Odendaal hospital, bookings needed to be made at the nearby Warmbath hospital in the same district. "Things got stuck at Warmbath hospital because nurses refused to [make a] booking for us.

Four ways SA's latest COVID surge is different

Bhekisisa | 20 May 2022

Confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 have been increasing in South Africa in recent weeks. This has been largely driven by two offspring – known as the BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages – of the Omicron variant first identified in South Africa late last year. What's notable about the most recent spike is that there are a number of differences between what the country is currently experiencing and the first four waves of COVID-19 in South Africa.

UNAIDS warns that stigmatizing language on Monkeypox jeopardises public health

UNAIDS | 22 May 2022

UNAIDS has expressed concern that some public reporting and commentary on Monkeypox has used language and imagery, particularly portrayals of LGBTI and African people, that reinforce homophobic and racist stereotypes and exacerbate stigma. Lessons from the AIDS response show that stigma and blame directed at certain groups of people can rapidly undermine outbreak response. Since May 13, 2022, an outbreak of Monkeypox has been reported in multiple UN member states where cases are not usually reported. As of May 21, the World Health Organization received reports of 92 laboratory-confirmed cases and 28 suspected cases from 12 Member States not endemic for the disease. A significant portion of the cases have been identified among gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men, with some cases identified through sexual health clinics. Investigations are ongoing. WHO notes that available evidence suggests that those who are most at risk are those who have had close physical contact with someone with monkeypox, and that risk is not limited to men who have sex with men. UNAIDS urges media, governments, and communities to respond with a rights-based, evidence-based approach that avoids stigma.

'COVID-19 is not over', Tedros warns World Health Assembly

United Nations | 22 May 2022

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus delivered his message during the opening of the annual World Health Assembly - the decision-making body of WHO comprised of representatives of 194 countries. Noting that it was the first time since 2019 that the Assembly could take place in-person, he asked ministers where the world stood, two years into the most severe health crisis in a century. "So, is it COVID-19 over? No, it's most certainly not over. I know that's not the message you want to hear, and it's definitely not the message I want to deliver", he highlighted. He added that although in many countries all restrictions have been lifted and life looks much like it did before the pandemic, reported cases are increasing in almost 70 countries in all regions. "And this in a world in which testing rates have plummeted", he added.

Amid scary headlines about disease, important progress against tuberculosis

EurekAlert | 23 May 2022

As headlines focus on COVID-19 and, now, monkeypox, tuberculosis remains one of the great scourges of infectious disease around the world. Approximately **1.5 million** people died of tuberculosis in 2020, the World Health Organization reports. Alarmingly, that year marked the first increase in TB deaths in more than a decade. But doctors and scientists at the University of Virginia School of Medicine are making important progress in their longstanding efforts to better understand, prevent and treat tuberculosis, and they've received a \$1.25 million boost for a partnership with colleagues in Tanzania to train the next generation of front-line soldiers in the war against the disease.

mRNA HIV Vaccine Development Programme launches in Africa

Health-e News | 23 May 2022

With the participation of experts from Africa, inroads are being made into an mRNA HIV vaccine. The non-

profit scientific research organisation, International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) and Moderna announced that the first participant screenings for a Phase I clinical trial of an mRNA HIV vaccine are going to start soon at the Centre for Family Health Research (CFHR) in Kigali, Rwanda, and The Aurum Institute in Tembisa, South Africa. The Phase I trial in Rwanda and South Africa aims to evaluate the mRNA HIV vaccine antigen for safety and immunogenicity and strengthen regional scientific capacity.

Burn them — Here's what happens to expired COVID vaccines

Bhekisisa | 23 May 2022

Medicines — including vaccines — are a bit like tin food. Although they can sit in the cupboard unopened for a long time, they don't last forever. And once they're past their expiry date they have to be thrown away. At the end of September, South Africa will almost certainly have to deal with such a situation. The country will have to dispose of unused Pfizer COVID jabs that will have reached the end of their shelf life — and it will come at a great cost. Each shot to be destroyed will cost the government about R166 — R160 is for buying it from Pfizer and close to R6 for extras like storage, distribution and destruction. Health department figures show South Africa had about 10.3-million doses of Pfizer COVID vaccines left by May 16, but these will all have expired by the end of October.

Paediatrician's report of children dying in horrendous public hospitals sends ripples through sector

Daily Maverick | 23 May 2022

In an open letter to the Department of Health, Dr Tim de Maayer, a paediatrician at the Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital, highlighted the devastating consequences of a failing public health sector for young patients. Colleagues and fellow doctors have thanked him for speaking out. On Sunday, Dr Tim de Maayer, a paediatrician at the Rahima Moosa Mother and Child Hospital, wrote an open letter to the Health Department. His message? Things in the public health sector are falling apart and children are bearing the brunt. Recounting the devastating consequences of load shedding, under-resourcing and water shortages on the young patients of Rahima Moosa, De Maayer asked, "Would you admit your child to this hospital?"

Winter deaths from Covid 'no worse than flu': Data reveals number of fatalities from virus over cold months was similar to those caused by influenza in the past as vaccines and immunity bring mortality rate 'more in line' with seasonal figures

DailyMail | 23 May 2022

This, along with immunity from natural infection, now means the Covid mortality rate has 'fallen more in line' with that of flu or pneumonia during pre-pandemic years. In January this year, there were 4,100 deaths caused primarily by a Covid infection in England and Wales, according to figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). That compares with a January average of 4,048 deaths from flu or pneumonia in the four years preceding the onset of the pandemic in March 2020.

Good news for future Covid waves in South Africa: Netcare

BusinessTech | 23 May 2022

The outlook for the remainder of the 2022 financial year largely depends on the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic and the various potential scenarios that may emerge, says hospital group Netcare. However, the signs are positive that South Africa has passed the worst of the Covid pandemic, the group said in its interim results report on Monday (23 May). "The new Omicron sub-variants (BA.4 and BA.5) that have recently emerged are currently driving an increase in Covid-19 positive cases in South Africa. While the impact of these sub-variants appears to be mild thus far, reflected in relatively low hospitalisation and lower mortality, it may weigh on patient sentiment and could affect activity in the short term.

SITUATION UPDATE: MONKEYPOX

NICD | 23 May 2022

The National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), a division of the National Health Laboratory Service, confirms that there are currently no monkeypox cases in South Africa. On 13th May 2022, the World Health Organization (WHO) was notified of two laboratory-confirmed cases and one probable case of monkeypox, from the same household, in the United Kingdom. On 15th May, four additional laboratory-confirmed cases were reported amongst sexual health services attendees presenting with a vesicular rash illness in men practising sex with men. Since then, 15 countries have collectively reported more than 140

cases (see table).

Updated framework now available will assist decision-makers tackling 21st century challenges

World Health Organization | 23 May 2022

Experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies have produced a long-awaited framework to conceptualize the assessment of health system performance. Health system performance assessment: a framework for policy analysis, published with support from the UHC2030 Health System Assessment technical working group (TWG) and the Universal Health Coverage Partnership, will help policy-makers to analyze possible origins and impact of poor performance on a particular health system outcome. In countries, especially those that receive external assistance, different and overlapping health systems assessments are often supported by different partners. The entry point for the UHC2030 TWG to develop this framework was the need for harmonizing and aligning the analysis of health system assessment (HSA) information across countries and HSA tools. The book places the newly introduced framework within the current evidence base while ensuring it is fit for the policy challenges of the 21st century. It offers policy-makers a strong performance orientation to analyze health system data and information.

World Health Assembly re-elects Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to second term as WHO Director-General

World Health Organization | 24 May 2022

WHO Member States today re-elected Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus to serve a second five-year term as Director-General of the world's leading public health agency. Dr Tedros was first elected in 2017. His re-election was confirmed during the 75th World Health Assembly in Geneva. He was the sole candidate. Today's vote was the culmination of an election process that began in April 2021 when Member States were invited to submit proposals for candidates for the post of Director-General. The WHO Executive Board, meeting in January 2022, nominated Dr Tedros to stand for a second term. Dr Tedros's new mandate officially commences on 16 August 2022. A Director-General can be re-appointed once, in accordance with World Health Assembly rules and procedures.

Monkeypox Frequently Asked Questions

NICD | 24 May 2022

Monkeypox is caused by infection with monkeypox virus, a member of the genus Orthopoxvirus in the family Poxviridae. There are currently more than 80 poxviruses known to science and these poxviruses have been isolated from different species of birds, insects, reptiles, marsupials and mammals. Poxviruses that may cause human disease include the smallpox (or variola) virus and molluscum contagiosum virus. The former was eradicated by 1980 by mass-vaccination programs. In addition human disease can be caused by infection with monkeypox, orf, cowpox and Tanapoxviruses. These viruses are harbored by different animal species and may spillover to the human population (i.e. they are zoonotic viruses) when there is sufficient exposure. These viruses are not highly transmissible from person-to-person.

Climate Crisis: Rural communities, women and girls hardest hit

Health-E News | 24 May 2022

This past weekend the South African Weather Service issued a level 10 weather warning for disruptive rainfall in Kwa-Zulu Natal. This came less than two months after the province faced major floods that destroyed homes and claimed over 440 lives. The province is still recovering from the impact of the devastating floods and communities are faced with many challenges, going forward. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), climate-sensitive health risks are disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged, including women, children, ethnic minorities, poor communities, migrants or displaced persons, older populations, and those with underlying health conditions. Charles Simane, policy researcher and organiser at the Co-operative and Policy Alternative Centre and Climate Justice Charter Movement (CJCM) member said the climate crisis has a devastating impact on food systems.

WHO launches new guide on integrating eye care in health systems

World Health Organization | 24 May 2022

A new World Health Organization (WHO) guide on eye care was launched today at an event - Universal Health Coverage and Eye Care: Promoting Country Action - attended by government officials, WHO

representatives and non-governmental organizations in the eye care sector. The Eye Care in Health Systems: Guide for Action provides practical, step-by-step, guidance to support Member States in planning and implementing the recommendations of the World report on vision with the goal to provide integrated people-centred eye care services. This new resource leads Member States through a four-step process: situation analysis; development of an eye care strategic plan and monitoring framework; development and implementation of an operational plan; and establishing and maintaining ongoing review processes.

The Anti-Vaccine Movement's New Frontier

The New York Times Magazine | 25 May 2022

A wave of parents has been radicalized by Covid-era misinformation to reject ordinary childhood immunizations — with potentially lethal consequences.

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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.

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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.

Network for Genomic Surveillance in South Africa

NICD | 13 May

A sub-lineages of the variant (Omicron) caused the fourth wave. The shift to resurgences driven by sub-lineages rather than new variants potentially heralds a change in the evolutionary pattern of the virus and a move to it becoming endemic.

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CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

World No Tobacco Day 2022

World Health Organization

Date: 31 May 2022

The harmful impact of the tobacco industry on the environment is vast and growing adding unnecessary pressure to our planet's already scarce resources and fragile ecosystems. Tobacco kills over 8 million people every year and destroys our environment, further harming human health, through the cultivation, production, distribution, consumption, and post-consumer waste.

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JOB OPPORTUNITIES

There are currently no vacancies available. Please keep our eyes on HST's careers portal (<https://www.hst.org.za/Pages/Careers.aspx>) for all new job opportunities that may arise.

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