

IHP news 697 : G20 summit in Bali & kick-off in Qatar

(18 November 2022)

The weekly International Health Policies (IHP) newsletter is an initiative of the Health Policy unit at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

Dear Colleagues,

As others have noted, this was once again a rather heavy week in global and planetary health. Things started with the announcement that the world has reached the milestone of **8 billion people** this week. Still a few more billion to go before we reach 'Peak Population'. Meanwhile, worryingly, according to a new study, "[Global figures suggest sperm concentration has halved in 40 years – and the rate of decline is accelerating](#)". Moreover, "*Declines in sperm concentration were seen not only in the region previously studied (that is, Europe, North America and Australia), but now also in Central and South America, Africa and Asia*". In other words, it seems we're witnessing a "**Grand Convergence in Global Health**" after all. To the bottom, that is.

This newsletter issue will focus on the **G20 meeting in Bali**, the second week of **COP 27** (so far), the **International Conference on Family Planning** in Thailand, [Board meetings](#) of global health stakeholders, Geneva (PPR related) Working groups and Bodies' diligent work (including a **Pandemic Accord [Zero-Draft](#)** this week), **World Diabetes Day**, new reports and papers ... you name it.

Speaking of COP 27, earlier this week, **30 news outlets published a joint editorial [calling for a windfall tax on the world's biggest fossil fuel companies](#)**. Among others, to fund climate action in poor countries. Now that Jeff "turned generous because of his new girlfriend" Bezos seems a bit puzzled on [how to give away his 124 billion fortune](#), I suggest we just add him to the windfall tax proposal. We can just leave him with 1 billion or so to go live with Elon on Mars (*the moon ain't far enough*).

Across the Channel, **The Economist** already published its yearly 'The year ahead'. From "[Ten trends to watch in the coming year](#)", we do appreciate this paragraph in particular: "*In retrospect, the pandemic marked the end of a period of relative stability and predictability in geopolitics and economics. Today's world is much more unstable, convulsed by the vicissitudes of great-power rivalry, the aftershocks of the pandemic, economic upheaval, extreme weather, and rapid social and technological change. **Unpredictability is the new normal.***"

The dire quote of the week came from **Anthony Costello et al**, in a new [Lancet Comment](#), pointing out that their alarming message from 2009 turned out actually an understatement, with hindsight: "*.... the 2009 Lancet Commission on managing the health effects of climate change described climate change as the "greatest global health threat of the 21st century". However, it was wrong, both qualitatively and temporally. The threat is now to our very survival and to that of the ecosystem upon which we depend. Grave impacts of climate change are already with us and could worsen catastrophically within decades.....*".

Fortunately, the **World Cup football** is about to begin in Qatar. I'm probably not the only one who can use a bit of international football in the current "Polycrisis Era" (*and in this part of the world, given the added "incentive" that we don't dare to turn on the heating nowadays*). While I agree with many others (including the New York Times) that [Migrant Workers Are the Qatar World Cup's Forgotten Team](#), at the same time I'm afraid this is no "anomaly", nor are these 'excesses'; this is, sadly, how "global capitalism" works, when nobody's watching. Day in, day out, trampling human rights of vulnerable and marginalized people. In other words, this is "our" ruthless global economic system @work that we help sustain every day with our own actions (and lack of action). (PS: As for the state of affairs in **FIFA** under Gianni Infantino, we recommend a rather damning analysis in this week's [De Groene Amsterdammer](#))

In "[Shifting crises of inequality: Shifting power for a new Eco-Social contract](#)", a new UNRISD flagship report, it's claimed **a new development model for social, economic and environmental justice is (urgently) needed**. Bet all these migrant workers with severe kidney issues or worse would agree. Let's just hope 'Global Health' is on their side, including the ones who like to go to 'Global Health' conferences in the region. Adding with their (*and yes, our*) carbon footprint to the heat that helped to 'co-create' the deaths of many migrant workers while building the stadiums for the World cup.

Having said that, it would be nice if Tedros and other Drogba's said something substantial about the sorry fate of these migrant workers in the coming days, over there in Qatar. "Together" with FIFA's Gianni perhaps.

Enjoy your reading.

Kristof Decoster

Featured Article

Are we really 'one' in 'One Health'?

Taufique Joarder, Sreytouch Vong & Renzo R. Guinto

The interdependence of people, animals and the environment is the foundation of the One Health movement. We, three Emerging Voices alumni from three different countries, were naturally on the lookout for the spirit of oneness at the [7th World One Health Congress](#) in Singapore, from 7 to 11 November 2022. Situated at the Sands Expo and Convention Center along Marina bay, the Congress brought together about 2500 experts (virtual and face-to-face) from different parts of the world. The organizer of the event, SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Health Institute, succeeded in amassing experts from diverse disciplines, but could it also unite them?

Below are the main discussions, as we observed, under each of the five thematic tracks of the Congress.

Track 1: One Health Science (OHS)

We realized that disease surveillance is essential to prevent an outbreak in a locality and, thereafter, globally. Harmonization of data surveillance, and enhancing epidemic preparedness through community participation in disease reporting and prevention can be optimized to create an efficient system for One Health surveillance. As One Health requires multi-sectoral participation beyond medical and biological science, bringing social science into One Health is essential.

In our opinion, based on what we heard in this Congress track, more support is needed in resource-limited countries for disease surveillance to prevent the next disease outbreak. Co-funding and co-sharing benefits across sectors will benefit the One Health approach more.

Track 2: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

In our observation of the sessions in this track, combating AMR needs to shift away from an anthropocentric approach to tap into other non-human-centric health institutions focusing on animals, the environment and climate in enacting all-encompassing health policies to solve challenges. Big data, machine learning, and predictive models present new opportunities in medicine in prescribing antimicrobials appropriately to curb the rise of drug-resistant microbes.

In our view, compliance, stewardship, communication, and knowledge sharing are essential to address AMR globally.

Track 3: Policy, Environment and Biosecurity (PEB)

We found from the discussions on PEB that voluntary licensing agreements and technology transfer would increase access to vaccines and essential equipment for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) in future pandemics. Compensation policies and incentives for animal farmers should be clearly outlined during an outbreak. This will effectively encourage the participation of farmers to join the reporting and responses to the outbreak.

We felt the responsibilities and capacities of financing, building sustainable collaboration models in prevention and funding, and integrating efforts based on equity are crucial for the One Health agenda.

Track 4: Pandemic Preparedness and Health Systems Resilience (PPHSR)

We understood from this track that pandemic preparedness requires a multi-faceted approach. A better understanding of actions is needed at different stages of the pandemic. More rapid and equitable manufacture, delivery, and uptake of interventions, along with an improved understanding of behavioral responses, is essential.

Our opinion is that a paradigm shift is necessary to balance the current emphasis on response with the under-invested area of prevention and risk reduction to support overall global preparedness and resilience.

Track 5: Impact on and Innovations in Clinical Practice (IICP)

We heard about many technologies and innovations in clinical practice for One Health, among others vaccines for animals, wastewater surveillance, banning animal slaughtering in the marketplace, air sampling in bat caves, app-based detection of bat movements, a pandemic treaty, technology transfer to prevent vaccine apartheid, use of a Global One Health Index as a framework for policymaking, and improving genomic surveillance capacity of countries.

However, we gathered from the debates and discussions in Congress that technology and innovation alone cannot change healthcare. Innovations require medical professionals to validate them. There is also value in greater involvement of social science disciplines in public health policy to support innovation.

Conclusions and the ways forward

The Congress provided an opportunity to learn and share the One Health framework and its application by drawing lessons learned from COVID-19 and beyond. However, we sensed from a few sessions that One Health governance is still fragmented and requires improved coordination, collaboration, communication, and innovations across the multiple stakeholders involved. Global health practitioners must collaborate to support One Health science and implementation. There still needs to be a greater understanding of the One Health framework among discipline stakeholders and different levels of society. It is important to communicate better between diverse discipline stakeholders, including scientists, politicians, and communities.

A clear message from most of the plenary sessions was that investment in prevention is way cheaper than a response to the next outbreak. Global health practitioners from the three main sectors—human, animal, and environmental—need to work together in investing in prevention. Empowering communities through a bottom-up approach to tackling the One Health challenges was another principle theme of the plenaries.

[Prof. Linfa Wang](#), Co-chair of the Congress steering committee, in his concluding speech of the Congress, aptly summarized three takeaways or calls to action: a. Invest in prevention, b. Work across sectors, and c. Greater One Health advocacy – and better communication between scientists, policy-makers, and communities.

Oneness in One Health, as we felt, is within reach, but we are not there yet.

On the authors:

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Highlights of the week

The read of the week

G2H2 Report – Financial justice for pandemic prevention, preparedness & response

<https://g2h2.org/posts/financialjustice/>

Must-read (and -act) of the week. *“Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2) decided to embark into **the contentious relationship between the international financial architecture and current health financing models**, towards highlighting the pitfalls the world must avoid to ensure a healthier post-COVID world.”*

With **three sections**. The third section in particular is also recommended for some WHO (technical) health financing staff, it seems.

Start perhaps with the [press release - Future Pandemics Will Be Worse Without Financial Justice](#)

“Ahead of the release of an initial draft of a WHO “pandemic treaty”, civil society experts and academics highlighted the urgent need to reshape and redirect financing towards prevention, preparedness and response to any future pandemics. In an event held today, Geneva Global Health Hub (G2H2), a platform of over 40 civil society organizations working on global public health, released the report ‘Financial Justice for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response’, bringing a deeper understanding of the unspoken tension between the current international financial architecture and health financing models in the post COVID-19 scenario....”

PS: the report also has an extensive **interview with Owain Williams** at the end.

Related - Guardian - [Global corporations ‘cheating public out of billions in tax’, say campaigners](#)

*“Tax Justice Network says **countries lose \$89bn a year** by allowing anonymity over use of tax havens.”*

*“.... In its **State of Tax Justice 2022 report**, the TJN called for an end to the concession made to multinational companies that they would not be named and shamed if they provided information about shifting profits into tax havens under a global initiative – country-by-country reporting – pioneered by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development....”*

International Conference on Family planning (ICFP 2022) in Thailand

HPW - Women Can Give Themselves Injectable Contraception, WHO Advises

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/women-can-give-themselves-injectable-contraception-who-advises/>

*“In the aftermath of massive pandemic-related disruptions to family planning services, the World Health Organization (WHO) says that women can be taught to give themselves contraceptive injections. This is one of the practical measures to ensure the continuity of family planning services during epidemics that is contained in the WHO’s updated **family planning handbook**, which was launched at the **International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP 2022) in Thailand** on Tuesday....”*

*“The world’s population reached eight billion by Tuesday, according to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). **UNFPA** Executive Director Dr Natalia Kenam told the opening of the ICFP conference on Monday that “eight billion is a success story. It’s a story of people living longer and healthier lives, a story of more resilient and effective healthcare systems, of more women and babies surviving childbirth”. But during the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, “approximately 70% of countries **reported disruptions** to these vital services, intensifying risks of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections,” according to the WHO. **Its handbook details practical measures to support family planning services during epidemics, including “wider access to self-administered contraceptives, and direct distribution of contraceptives through pharmacies”.....”***

See also UN News – [Updated family planning guide promotes empowerment, health and wellbeing – WHO](#)

FP2030 Measurement report

<https://fp2030.org/resources/2022-measurement-report-brief>

We’re 10 years after the London Summit on Family Planning. Stocktaking at this crucial moment in time. Trends over the last decade.

Among others: “More than one billion women and girls of reproductive age (15–49) live in low- and lower-middle income countries. An estimated 371 million of those women are now using a modern method of family planning—87 million more than just a decade ago. Their use of contraception averted more than 141 million unintended pregnancies, 29 million unsafe abortions, and almost 150,000 maternal deaths in the last year alone.....”

However, financing from donors has fallen to \$1.39 billion in 2021 (after a peak in 2019).

TGH - Family Planning: Global Disparities Persist

C Bintz et al. <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/family-planning-global-disparities-persist>

IHME blog. “Contraception access and options need to improve to help empower women, young people.”

G 20 summit in Bali

With some info on the **Leaders’ summit** and the (preceding) **Health & Finance Ministers’ meeting**. We focus below on the ‘global health’ aspects of both, narrowly defined.

Leaders’ summit

For the **Leaders’ Declaration** (in full), see <https://linktr.ee/mediacenterg20> or <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/11/16/g20-bali-leaders-declaration/>

For the **Global health related sections** – see **19-23**.

- PS: Katri Bertram offered [some reflections & analysis](#) on them, via Twitter. Including:

“Striking is that the Presidency ambition to move discussions on the #globalhealth #architecture are not mentioned. #G20 has to find consensus & clear there is not an agreed way forward. This is concerning, as what we currently has is inefficient & competes for scarce funds.”

“As India takes over on 1 December 2022, it has not prioritized health in its initial #G20 agenda. Expectations on Japan #G7 (1 Jan 2023) will be much higher.”

“Overall, #globalhealth #leadership is slipping. Many key countries are pulling back after the #Covid19 peak (& as UK, overall). We may be entering a period of leadership void, at a time when the sector needs a strong steer & vision.”

- For Tedros’ view, see [UN News](#):

*“Tedros congratulated the G20 for adopting a declaration that includes strong support for health and health security. “The G20 leaders said they remain committed to a healthy and sustainable recovery from the pandemic, and building towards achieving and sustaining UHC under the SDGs”, he reported. The world’s leading economies also **reaffirmed commitment to strengthen global health governance, with WHO leading and coordinating**. They also welcomed the establishment of a new Pandemic Fund, among other developments. “*

And via [Cidrap News](#):

*“At a WHO [briefing](#) today, Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, PhD, said **world leaders at the G20 summit expresses support for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body that is negotiating the Pandemic Accord**, an effort that began a year ago to strengthen pandemic preparedness, prevention, and response. A progress report on the effort is due in May 2023 to the World Health Assembly (WHA), and the measure is slated to be considered by the WHA in 2024.*

Yesterday the WHO signed an agreement with Indonesia to establish a training hub for emergency medical teams to boost global readiness for health emergencies, Tedros said at today's briefing...."

G20 Health & Finance Ministers' meeting : official launch of Pandemic Fund

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/events/2022/11/10/official-launch-of-the-pandemic-fund-at-g20>

"Earlier this week, the G20 Presidency of Indonesia hosted the official launch of the Pandemic Fund on the margins of the G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting on November 13, 2022 in Bali, Indonesia. At the launch, the Pandemic Fund, now with new name and logo, provided the latest progress the Governing Board has made since its establishment on September 8, 2022, to get operational – an important step toward strengthening global health architecture. ..."

See the World Bank Press release - [G20 hosts Official Launch of The Pandemic Fund](#)

Devex - Pandemic preparedness fund gets a new name and two new co-chairs

<https://www.devex.com/news/pandemic-preparedness-fund-gets-a-new-name-and-two-new-co-chairs-104415>

Must-read analysis.

"The global trust fund to fight pandemics is getting a rebrand to shed its unwieldy name: Going forward, the Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response will simply be called the Pandemic Fund, as it also gets a slew of big names joining. Rwanda and Indonesia will co-chair the newly renamed fund's board, marking a significant change in the typical governing style of such initiatives, with both heads hailing from low- and middle-income countries. ... Chatib Basri, the former finance minister of Indonesia, and Daniel Ngamije, Rwanda's health minister, will be the board's co-chairs, Devex can report first...."

"Also, Mike Ryan, the head of the World Health Organization's Health Emergencies Program, is being nominated for the role of chair of the technical advisory panel, according to a source. The nomination will likely be made official on Sunday...."

G20 Joint Finance and Health Minister Meeting Concludes the Year to Affirm Commitment to Strengthen Global Health Architecture

<https://www.g20.org/g20-joint-finance-and-health-minister-meeting-concludes-the-year-to-affirm-commitment-to-strengthen-global-health-architecture/>

Coverage of the G20 Joint Finance & Health Minister meeting.

"Ministers of Finance and Health Ministers of G20 member countries, invitees, and international organizations attended the second and final joint Meeting under the Indonesian Presidency to discuss and request updates on: i) the progress of the Financial Intermediary Fund for Pandemic Preparedness, Prevention and Response (the 'Pandemic Fund'); and ii) development of coordination

arrangements between Finance and Health for pandemic Preparedness, Prevention, and Response (PPR). Today's Meeting is a follow-up to the first Meeting that was held in Yogyakarta in June 2022 and the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Annual Meetings held in Washington, DC, in October 2022.”

“Strengthening the Global Health Architecture is a crucial priority for the Indonesian G20 Presidency.” But apart from the (money needing) Pandemic Fund, not that much progress has been booked...

Link - [Indonesian G20 Presidency Developed a Call to Action on Financing for Tuberculosis Response](#) (28 October)

G20 urged to “face up” to global Covid-19 challenges, as rich countries still monopolise vaccine supply

<https://countercurrents.org/2022/11/g20-urged-to-face-up-to-global-covid-19-challenges-as-rich-countries-still-monopolise-vaccine-supply/>

View from civil society. *“Rich countries have delivered seven times more doses of COVID-19 vaccine per head than low-income countries, civil society groups have warned, as the G20 summit continues its session in Bali. The groups have called on the G20 governments to address the intellectual property barriers that have frustrated the sharing of vaccine and treatment technology. The warning was issued after a vaccine access conference from the C20 group of civil society organization, the official civil society counterpart to the G20. C20 members including Indonesia for Global Justice, Indonesia AIDS Coalition, and the People’s Vaccine Alliance Asia met to discuss the G20’s flailing commitment to global vaccine and treatment equality. The G20 has not yet committed to suspending intellectual property rights for the needs of COVID-19, despite many G20 governments supporting a temporary waiver of the Trade Related aspects of Intellectual Property (TRIPS) agreement – known as the TRIPS waiver – at the World Trade Organization....”*

The Global Governance Project - G20 performance on health

M Zelenova; <https://www.globalgovernanceproject.org/g20-performance-on-health-4/maria-zelenova/>

With an overview of G20 communiqués, commitments (and compliance) (on health) since 2008. Short analysis, including how they could improve on compliance (via three steps), in the absence of shocks.

“Making more health commitments correlates with higher compliance in this area and is just one of several measures the G20 leaders could take to boost progress in global health care. @mary_zelenova looks at their performance on health.”

“...The G20 Bali Summit put the global health architecture among its three priorities, with an emphasis on global collaboration to advance post-pandemic recovery and encourage strengthening global health resilience to make the global health system more equitable, inclusive and responsive to

crises.there are nonetheless **steps they can take to improve compliance with their health commitments.....**”

Chatham House (Expert Comment) The G20 will survive but needs major repair

<https://www.chathamhouse.org/2022/11/g20-will-survive-needs-major-repair>

By way of example, **one overall analysis**. “Russia’s attack on Ukraine is the biggest challenge to the existence of the G20 since its foundation.”

Including: “**Tackling sovereign debt distress should be a top priority**: There are critically important issues on which G20 action is urgently needed. **Top of the list is the acute problem of sovereign debt distress**. Some 60 per cent of low-income countries are now judged to be in debt distress or at high risk of debt distress. But the existing G20 approach for tackling debt distress in low-income countries, the ‘Common Framework’, is progressing far too slowly, and there is no agreed mechanism for handling the growing list of emerging economies in debt distress. Without tackling debt distress, it is extremely hard to see how it will be possible to generate the vast flow of private sector climate finance necessary to help the developing world progress to net zero. And yet the G20 is one of the few forums in which a high-level approach to debt distress can be handled because China – along with the IFIs and the western-based private sector – are key players in any solution.”

Global Fund

Ahead of the Global Fund’s Board meeting (15-17 Nov), there were some more pledges from the UK & Italy.

Global Fund Applauds UK Pledge to Seventh Replenishment

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2022/2022-11-14-global-fund-applauds-uk-pledge-to-seventh-replenishment/>

“The Global Fund warmly welcomes the decision by the United Kingdom to renew its strong commitment to help end AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and strengthen health and community systems around the world. **Minister for Development Andrew Mitchell announced a pledge of GBP 1 billion to the Global Fund for the coming three-year period.**”

“... **The new pledge comes on top of the record-breaking US\$14.25 billion raised by the Global Fund last September in New York at its Seventh Replenishment Conference to fund its next three-year cycle of grants. The Global Fund’s Board Meeting on 16-17 November 2022 [will] approve the total funding available for the 2023-2025 grant allocation period.....**”

Related **tweet Ashleigh Furlong (Politico)**:

“The UK has finally pledged to the Global Fund — but **while U.S., Commission, Germany increased pledges by 30%, U.K. did the opposite, reducing theirs by almost 30%.**”

See also the Guardian – [UK criticised for ‘disastrous decision’ to cut health aid pledge by almost a third](#)

“Charities say reduced donations to the Global Fund will lead to the preventable deaths of up to 1.5 million people.” “... Britain will provide £1bn over the next three years to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development office said today, a cut of £400m on its previous pledge in 2019.....”

Global Fund Praises Italy’s Increased Pledge to Seventh Replenishment

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2022/2022-11-15-global-fund-praises-italy-increased-pledge-to-seventh-replenishment/>

“The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria applauds today’s announcement by Italy of a €185 million pledge for the upcoming three-year period to help the world get back on track to end HIV, TB and malaria as public health threats by 2030, mitigate the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years, and build resilient and strong health systems. Italy’s pledge represents a 15% increase over their previous commitment. Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni announced Italy’s commitment at the G20 Summit in Bali, Indonesia, on 15 November.....”

World Diabetes day (14 November)

Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology (Editorial) - Diabetes education: the key to a brighter tomorrow

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587\(22\)00323-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/landia/article/PIIS2213-8587(22)00323-0/fulltext)

*“**World Diabetes Day (Nov 14)** this year marks the midpoint of the 3-year Access to Diabetes Care campaign, initiated last year in the centenary of the discovery of insulin. Under the theme of Education to protect tomorrow, the campaign in 2022 focuses on the need to improve access to quality, up-to-date diabetes education for health-care professionals and people living with diabetes.....”*

AllAfrica - African Region Tops World in Undiagnosed Diabetes - WHO Analysis

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202211140336.html>

“Only 46% of people living with diabetes in the African region know their status, raising the risk of severe illness and death, potentially worsening the situation in the region which already has the world's highest mortality rates due to the disease, a new analysis by World Health Organization (WHO) shows. Globally, 55% of people with diabetes know they have diabetes. In the African region, lack of testing facilities and equipment, inadequate number of trained health personnel, poor access to health facilities and lack of awareness about diabetes are some of the barriers to diabetes testing. Currently, 24 million adults are living with diabetes in Africa. The figure is projected to rise by 129% to 55 million by 2045.....”

Ebola outbreak Uganda

Slowly moving in the right direction, it appears. Though still too early to tell.

Reuters - Uganda confirms Ebola case in country's east as outbreak expands

[Reuters;](#)

*"An Ebola case has been confirmed in Jinja in eastern Uganda, the country's health minister said on Sunday, **the first time the outbreak has spread to a new region of the country from central Uganda where cases have been confined so far...."***

Link – [Reuters : Ugandan leader \[i.e. Museveni\] says anti-Ebola efforts starting to succeed](#)

HPW - Trials of Three Ebola Candidate Vaccines Set for Uganda; India's Covaxin Vaccine Still Suspended by WHO

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/trials-of-three-ebola-candidate-vaccines-set-for-uganda-indias-covaxin-vaccine-still-suspended-by-who/>

*"Clinical trials on three Ebola vaccine candidates for the Sudan strain of the virus are due to start soon in Uganda, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). "I'm pleased to announce that a WHO committee of external experts has evaluated three candidate vaccines and agreed that all three should be included in the planned trial in Uganda. WHO and Uganda's Minister of Health have considered and accepted the committee's recommendation," WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus **told a media briefing on Wednesday.** Doses of the vaccine candidates are set to arrive in Uganda next week. ..."*

"...However, with the outbreak in decline, it might mean that it will be hard to test the vaccines.... The clinical trials will be conducted by a group of organisations including the WHO, Uganda's Makerere University, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI) and Gavi, the global vaccine alliance...." "In a joint statement earlier this month, the WHO said that while the vaccines were developed by the Lung Institute at Makerere University, WHO, CEPI and GAVI will ensure that sufficient doses are available for the clinical trials. ..."

See also Stat News – [WHO, Uganda plan to test three candidate Ebola vaccines in outbreak](#)

COP 27 in Egypt: Week 2

Draft Cop27 agreement fails to call for 'phase-down' of all fossil fuels

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/17/draft-cop27-agreement-fails-to-call-for-phase-down-of-all-fossil-fuels>

Update as of Thursday morning on the negotiations. *“Document will provide basis for negotiations over coming days and is likely to be significantly reworked.”*

Link – Guardian: [First draft of Cop27 text: what it says and what it means](#)

And update of Thursday evening – Guardian - [UN chief warns of ‘breakdown in trust’ with no deal in sight at Cop27](#) *“With only one full day of official talks left, there are no clear agreements on key issues including funding for loss and damage.”*

COP27: Health Organizations Issue Stern Demand for Loss and Damage Fund

<https://mailchi.mp/957c121a969b/cop27-health-organizations-issue-stern-demand-for-loss-and-damage-fund?e=3289726e8a>

(16 Nov) *“As negotiations move to the ministerial level at COP27 Climate Summit in Egypt, the **Global Climate and Health Alliance** today reiterated its call for a governments to commit to establishing a Loss and Damage fund under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).”*

PS: *“The **Global Climate and Health Alliance** is the leading global convenor of health professional and health civil society organizations addressing climate change.”*

COP27: Urgent Need to Measure Health in Climate Progress Plans Say Health Orgs

(17 Nov) *“As the COP27 Climate Summit this week reviews progress on climate action and the implementation to date of the Paris Agreement, the **World Health Organization and the Global Climate and Health Alliance** called for the urgent inclusion of health metrics in the UNFCCC’s Global Stocktake and the Global Goal on Adaptation, in order to track whether global climate action is protecting the health of people around the world. Both assessments are being established for the first time, with a way forward to be defined in time for COP28.”*

“Heading into the final two days of the climate talks, negotiators have proposed, in the draft cover text, that governments in their climate action, should “respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights including the right to [the] highest attainable standard of physical and mental health”. The draft also refers to the “United Nations General Assembly Resolution 76/75 which recognized the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right””

Health organisations call on the UNFCCC to protect COP from corporate greenwashing following Coca-Cola sponsorship

<https://www.worldobesity.org/news/health-organisations-call-on-the-unfccc-to-protect-cop-from-corporate-greenwashing-following-coca-cola-sponsorship>

From end of last week. ***“60 health organisations from around the world have voiced their objections to Coca-Cola's sponsorship of COP27 in an open letter to Simon Stiell, Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)....”***

Katri Bertram (blog) - From billions to trillions (would you like a Coca Cola with that?)

<https://katribertram.wordpress.com/2022/11/11/from-billions-to-trillions-would-you-like-a-coca-cola-with-that/>

“The rallying call “billions to trillions” is back. As are desperate fundraising partnerships.”

“At COP27 this week, it's clear that the “billions to trillions” rallying call is back. And as very few governments are able to cough up a few trillion (and government fiscal space continues to shrink in many key donor countries), the target is to get private capital. Our economy is awash with private capital and big profits, so why not share a bit (or a lot)?”

“I've worked in fundraising for most of my career. I have seen how private sector partnerships often go. There are private bonds (sometimes tried, most often failed, and these have proven to be immensely expensive to fundraise for and manage). There are private foundations (most of whom dangle extremely big carrots but then fund peanuts with tight strings for most initiatives). And then there are private companies. Take the COP27 climate summit and a highly criticised partnership with – yes, you guessed it – Coca Cola, one of the largest plastic polluters in the world. A mistake? Absolutely. An anomaly? Definitely not.....”

Guardian - The west's 'dash for gas' in Africa is nothing more than energy colonialism

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/12/cop27-dash-for-gas-africa-energy-colonialism>

“Climate justice activists at Cop27 demand community-based renewable projects that work for the people, not corporations.”

“The west's dash for African gas has become a rallying point at Cop27, with climate justice activists calling out the hypocrisy of rich polluting nations who are scrambling to keep energy prices down by pushing for more fossil fuel projects in Africa. This short-term fix to the energy price crisis created by Russia's war on Ukraine will lock some of the poorest, most climate-affected countries in the world in polluting fossil fuel projects with few economic or energy benefits for the communities whose land, water and heritage will be sacrificed. It has been called out as “energy colonialism” – a political-corporate alliance on display at Cop27. ...”

.... But the climate justice movement's message is clear: community-based renewable projects that work for the people, not corporations, are a necessity, according to Dipti Bhatnagar, from Friends of the Earth International in Mozambique. “It's not just about the energy source, it's about the whole energy system – who decides, who benefits and who profits.” “

PS: *“... None of the world’s 15 largest renewable energy companies have policies on respecting land rights despite wind and solar requiring substantial amounts of land; only a quarter have policies recognising the rights of Indigenous peoples....”*

Nature - Carbon emissions hit new high: warning from COP27

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-03657-w>

“Fresh data released at the climate summit show global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels are soaring despite energy crisis.”

“Global carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels are projected to increase 1% in 2022, hitting a new record of 37.5 billion tonnes, scientists announced today at the United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. If the trend continues, humanity could pump enough CO₂ into the atmosphere to warm Earth to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial temperatures in just nine years. The 2015 Paris climate agreement set this aspirational limit, seeking to avoid the most serious consequences for the planet.”

“...The Global Carbon Project’s analysis suggests that meeting the goals laid out in the Paris agreement would require a drop in carbon emissions of around 1.4 billion tonnes per year, or nearly 4% annually, with emissions zeroing out around mid-century. That is similar to the emissions reductions witnessed in 2020, when governments around the world locked down in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, Le Quéré says. “

Lancet Comment - Climate change threatens our health and survival within decades

A Costello et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)02353-4/fulltext#.Y3SYTgAs4so.twitter](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)02353-4/fulltext#.Y3SYTgAs4so.twitter)

“ the 2009 Lancet Commission on managing the health effects of climate change described climate change as the “greatest global health threat of the 21st century”. However, it was wrong, both qualitatively and temporally. The threat is now to our very survival and to that of the ecosystem upon which we depend. Grave impacts of climate change are already with us and could worsen catastrophically within decades....”

The Intercept – How scientists from the “Global South” are sidelined at the IPCC

<https://theintercept.com/2022/11/17/climate-un-ipcc-inequality/>

“Researchers say systemic bias at the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has led to projections that perpetuate economic inequality.”

Pandemic Accord (draft)

Politico - A new pandemic playbook: Draft treaty sets out far-reaching new rules for countries

<https://www.politico.eu/article/new-pandemic-playbook-draft-treaty-far-reaching-rules-countries/>

*“The coronavirus pandemic isn't yet over but countries are already hashing out a new set of rules to respond to the next one. **The draft pandemic treaty that's being negotiated by diplomats in Geneva would require countries to make significant promises to ensure equitable access to pandemic products — commitments that are likely to receive pushback from Big Pharma. A draft text, obtained by POLITICO, lays the groundwork for discussions that are expected to stretch until May 2024 when the final agreement will be adopted....”***

*“... **In its current form, the draft treaty would tie countries into significant commitments to improve access.** A key aim? Preventing the “gross inequities that hindered timely access to medical and other COVID-19 pandemic response products” from happening again..... If agreed by the WHO's members, the consequences would be enormous not only for the countries themselves but for the pharmaceutical companies that develop, manufacture and distribute pandemic countermeasures. **In its current form, the text ties countries into commitments that, if implemented, would shake up the conditions around the granting of money for research; would include commitments around the disclosure of prices and contractual terms for pandemic products; and put in place mechanisms to transfer technology and know-how....”***

And Reuters - [Big Pharma may have to reveal government deals in WHO's draft pandemic rules](#)

*“Pharmaceutical companies could be made to disclose prices and deals agreed for any products they make to fight future pandemics, under new rules being drawn up by the World Health Organization and reviewed by Reuters. **A draft version of the WHO's pandemic accord, which it hopes will be adopted by the U.N. health agency's 194 member countries, calls for it to be compulsory for companies to reveal the terms of any public procurement contracts. The agreement is at an early stage and likely to change in the course of negotiations with member states and other stakeholders. The draft will be presented to them in full in a meeting on Friday, after being circulated earlier in the week. The document is vague about what would happen if countries who sign up do not stick to its rules and if companies don't comply. ...***

*“... **The draft recognises the importance of IP but says there needs to be better mechanisms for sharing expertise so more companies can produce vaccines and drugs during a crisis....”***

*“... **The draft document also proposes a peer-review mechanism to assess countries' pandemic preparedness, as well as better universal health coverage, more domestic funding on preventing and tackling pandemics, and better access for WHO to investigate outbreak origins.”***

See also Reuters - [Explainer: How the World Health Organization might fight future pandemics](#)

“Negotiations on new rules for dealing with pandemics are underway at the World Health Organization (WHO), with a target date of May 2024 for a legally binding agreement to be adopted by the U.N. health agency's 194 member countries....”

“... Members are due to give their initial feedback to the draft in a public meeting between Dec. 5-7. With so many member countries involved, securing agreement is likely to be tricky...”

And HPW - [**Pandemic Treaty ‘Zero-Draft’ Makes a Strong Case for Regional Production.**](#)

“Regional production of vaccines and other pandemic-related products – and sharing the technical know-how to enable this – features strongly in the much-anticipated first draft of the global pandemic treaty proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO). WHO member states will be briefed on the conceptual “zero-sum” draft on Friday in preparation for the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body’s (INB) meeting from 5-7 December, which will kick off formal negotiations.”

“The draft advocates for regional and country “strategic stockpiles” of pandemic response products, particularly active pharmaceutical ingredients that could be facilitated by “multilateral and regional purchasing mechanisms”. It also suggests “international consolidation hubs, as well as regional staging areas” to ensure the streamlined transportation of supplies....”

“...Intellectual property is the most obvious hot potato. The draft offers four proposals on IP, all of which recognise the negative impact IP protection can have on prices....”

PS: ***“...Responding to the draft text, Mohga Kammal Yanni, policy co-lead for the People’s Vaccine Alliance, said that it “shows that negotiations are at a crossroads”.....”***

More on Pandemic Preparedness & Response

BMJ (News) - Covid-19: Funding for pandemic preparedness being “sucked away” by war in Ukraine

[**https://www.bmj.com/content/379/bmj.o2748**](https://www.bmj.com/content/379/bmj.o2748)

“A funding gap of around £10.5bn (€12bn; \$12.4bn) for pandemic preparedness in developing countries has emerged as governments in richer countries divert finance to military aid for Ukraine and other urgent domestic priorities, a conference on development finance has been told.”

“...Mark Malloch Brown, former UN deputy director general and now president of the development charity Open Society Foundations, said that funding for another pandemic in poorer countries was being “sucked away” by funding for Ukraine since Russia’s invasion of the country, and pledges on development aid generally were not being kept.At the conference on the future of development finance last week in London, organised by Devex, a non-profit umbrella group for development charities, Malloch Brown also expressed concern that the drug industry could exert more pressure on developing countries in their planning for future pandemics. “I worry a lot about big pharma extending its grip on the framework of pandemic preparedness.”

“... The Open Society Foundations is negotiating with donors for £1bn of funding to promote covid vaccine equity of access and is working with the Gates and Clinton Foundations to secure finance as part of the Covax initiative. WHO has also set up a Financial Intermediary Fund to channel funding for vaccine access and pandemic response to poorer countries....”

Geneva Health Files - Amendments to the IHR Come to the Fore. Will the Pandemic Accord Lose Traction?

P Patnaik; https://genevahealthfiles.substack.com/p/amendments-to-the-ih-come-to-the?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Analysis from last week on Friday. This one focuses on the **track on the IHR amendments**.

“In 2021, when the negotiations towards a Pandemic Accord was not yet a reality, a number of member states were straining themselves to be heard amidst the clamour for a treaty. They were advocating for restoring the centrality of the [International Health Regulations \(2005\)](#), and for amending these rules that already exist. The world was still deep in the throes of the COVID-19 pandemic, and there was widespread frustration on the failure in the implementation and compliance to these rules. The critics of the IHR (the EU, South Africa, among others) underscored the limitations of these rules. The U.S., India, China, Russia, were some of the member states that emphasized the role of the IHR in governing future health emergencies. Fast forward a few months to mid-2022, and there is a discernible change in the qualitative support that the amendments to the IHR as an approach, have received. As we **reported** a few weeks ago, as many as 14 member states **submitted** proposals articulating the amendments they would like to see. Not only that, Geneva-based sources indicate that there has been a change in the position of the EU, in the way it sees the IHR relative to the treaty. This is significant, for this suggests increasing alignment between the US and the EU on the matter of using the amendments to the IHR as a process to strengthen the rules for future health emergencies. And what is as significant, is a number of developing countries who were initially seen as “treaty-skeptics”, have now warmed up to the idea of the Pandemic Accord and its potential. This story tries to capture the on-going transition in these processes”

And a few chunks:

“... Enter IHR REVIEW COMMITTEE: Suggested by some developed countries, an independent review committee has been put in place to provide technical recommendations on potential amendments. The committee has had and will have consultations with member states, and will inform the WG-IHR process, sources said...”

“... the two workstreams of the Accord and the IHR amendments will both come to the [World Health] Assembly in May 2024....

“...Observers keenly watching and informing both these discussions (IHR & INB) suggest that if developed countries manage to get what they want from the amendment of the IHR, then the treaty process might lose its sting. They also remind us that the Accord under Article 19 of the Constitution will not only have a few non-binding elements, but that it may not be ratified at all by some countries that do not like what the instrument could govern. “

The Collective Blog - How to mitigate power disparities in global pandemic rulemaking?

S Moon; [The Collective Blog](#);

“In this blog, Collective member Suerie Moon discusses how we can prevent the most powerful countries to be rule-makers, while smaller or less wealthy countries end up as rule-takers, in the development of a new pandemic treaty. “

Access to Medicines & health technology

HPW - How Do You Spell Deadlock? T-R-I-P-S

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/how-do-you-spell-deadlock-t-r-i-p-s/>

Neat overview of the TRIPS state of affairs as of the end of last week. Also listing “**the three camps**”.

“Deadlock may once again be the name of the game at the World Trade Organization’s (WTO’s) Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights—TRIPS, for short. A communication from Switzerland and Mexico questioning the need to extend the waiver on intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines to therapeutics and diagnostics is laying bare the divergences and complexities of one of the most contentious issues facing the organization. The June agreement explicitly called for the vaccine waiver to be extended to the “production and distribution of COVID-19 diagnostics and therapeutics” within six months of adoption, setting the deadline for passage of an agreement to December 19—the first business day after 17 December. With less than six weeks remaining, time is running out.”

.... Informal discussions about the extension were held in September but led nowhere. In a meeting last week in Geneva, the chair of the TRIPS Council, Ambassador Lansana Gberie of Sierra Leone, said that the absence, at this late stage, of concrete, text-based proposals on the issue of the extension is “very concerning,” and urged delegations to explore all options to make progress....”

“...The TRIPS Council will meet again, informally, on 22 November. “We do not have a lot of time,” the chairperson acknowledges. Further meetings are scheduled for 6 December, with the possibility of calling members for another meeting on December 15, four days before the deadline....”

Reuters - Big pharma not doing enough to improve drug access - analysis

[Reuters](#);

“Since the pandemic emerged, more top drugmakers have made progress in improving access to medicines in the developing world, but those gains are largely limited to middle-income countries leaving the poorest behind, an analysis has found.”

“The [report](#), published by the non-profit Access to Medicine Foundation every two years, found that companies are employing strategies including voluntary licensing and building manufacturing capacity to improve access to medicines in low- and middle-income countries, although these advances have limited depth and breadth. The findings mirror a long-established pattern - that the pharmaceutical industry will prioritise countries where there is a market....”

“... In terms of **overall rankings on the Access to Medicine Index**, British drugmaker GSK ([GSK.L](#)) retained the top spot, closely followed by U.S. pharma major Johnson & Johnson (J&J) ([JNJ.N](#)). Anglo-Swedish drugmaker AstraZeneca ([AZN.L](#)) leapt to third place from seventh, helped by a series of voluntary licences issued for its COVID-19 vaccine....”

For the report, see [Access to Medicines Foundation](#).

And some great coverage (and overview key messages) also via **Cidrap News** - [Report: Pharma firms must boost access for LMICs, R&D for pandemic threats](#)

Among others: **“For the first time, all 20 companies in scope report an access-to-medicine strategy, with 19 integrating this into their overall corporate strategy,”** the report stated. Six of the companies, including Astellas, Boehringer Ingelheim, Johnson & Johnson (J&J), Merck, Novartis, and Takeda, have developed access plans for all their late-stage projects—the first time this milestone has been reached. **“While this progress is encouraging, only 15% of access plans across the companies in scope include one of the 27 low-income countries, with the 26 upper-middle income countries far more likely to be considered in companies' access plans for an R&D project,”** the report said....”

And : **“R&D pipeline for key infectious diseases 'mainly empty'.”**

Devex - The HPV vaccine market is changing. But there are other access threats

<https://www.devex.com/news/the-hpv-vaccine-market-is-changing-but-there-are-other-access-threats-104448>

“Exactly two years ago, the World Health Organization launched a new global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer. That strategy included a target of having 90% of girls fully vaccinated with an HPV vaccine by the age of 15. But to date, only 123 countries have introduced the vaccine in their national immunization programs, according to Dr. Kate O’Brien, the director of WHO’s Department of Immunization, Vaccines and Biologicals. As of 2021, only 13% of the world’s girls have been fully vaccinated. Vaccines protecting against cervical cancer have been around since 2006. But access remains limited due to supply constraints. WHO however expects the HPV vaccine market to change soon with the entry of new manufacturers from China and India....”

“...Devex spoke with O’Brien on the factors that have to date contributed to low HPV vaccine coverage globally, the potential impact of the entry of new manufacturers on pricing, and current threats surrounding access....”

World Cup Football in Qatar

Lancet Editorial – Will the Qatar World Cup be good for health?

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)02357-1/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)02357-1/fulltext)

“Kicking off on Nov 20, the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar has been hailed by Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General, as “a unique opportunity to show how sport can promote

health". WHO, the Qatar Ministry of Public Health, FIFA, and the organising committee hope to create a "Legacy for Sport and Health", aiming to protect the health of all those involved, promote healthy lifestyles, and promote health at future mass gatherings. But will this World Cup really be good for health? The evidence is not promising....."

"... High-level sponsors of this World Cup include Budweiser, McDonalds, and Coca Cola—companies driven to profit from unhealthy lifestyles—as well as major carbon polluters..... The event has been shrouded in concern over human rights abuses in Qatar....." " Another major concern for the event are the rights of LGBTQ+ people. "

"There is a strong debate about how footballers, pundits, and fans should engage with these issues. Some might suggest focusing on the football. But if the World Cup really wants to ensure a health legacy, one way is to speak out against such injustices and use the event as a platform to call for change. Human rights abuses against LGBTQ+ people and migrant workers are global health issues, not just Qatari ones. The legacy of the 2022 World Cup for health can still be shaped. Not least, the World Cup is an opportunity to contemplate social responsibility, and for sporting organisations, global health institutions, medical journals, and any associations planning global events to reflect on the countries they partner with and question the implications for health. It is not just about what takes place on the pitch."

WHO - FIFA World Cup™ players to #BringTheMoves and encourage kids to exercise

<https://www.who.int/news/item/17-11-2022-fifa-world-cup--players-to--bringthemoves-and-encourage-kids-to-exercise>

"FIFA and the World Health Organization (WHO) in partnership with the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH), Qatar and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy (SC) launched the #BringTheMoves challenge, encouraging players at the FIFA World Cup 2022™ to meet the celebration challenges presented to them on social media by fans across the globe and encourage youngsters to #BeActive....."

Oral diseases

Reuters – Nearly half of world population suffers from oral diseases - WHO

[Reuters;](#)

" Nearly half of the world's population, or 3.5 billion people, suffer from oral diseases, the majority of them in low- and middle-income countries, the World Health Organization said on Thursday. The most common oral illnesses are tooth decay, severe gum disease, tooth loss and oral cancers, with untreated tooth decay affecting nearly 2.5 billion people, the United Nations agency said. About 380,000 new cases of oral cancers are diagnosed every year, it said...."

“WHO cited large out-of-pocket expenditure and the unavailability of highly specialized dental equipment in primary healthcare facilities as two of the reasons for the high prevalence of oral diseases, especially in poor countries. “Oral health has long been neglected in global health, but many oral diseases can be prevented,” said WHO Director-General, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. The agency suggested countries include equitable oral health services as part of their national planning and integrate oral health services into their primary health care models, while also improving access to affordable fluoride toothpaste, among other measures....”

Global health governance & governance of health

Lancet (Health Policy) - Human rights and the COVID-19 pandemic: a retrospective and prospective analysis

L Gostin et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)01278-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)01278-8/fulltext)

“... We propose embedding human rights and equity within a transformed global health architecture as the necessary response to COVID-19’s rights violations. This means vastly more funding from high-income countries to support low-income and middle-income countries in rights-based recoveries, plus implementing measures to ensure equitable distribution of COVID-19 medical technologies. We also emphasise structured approaches to funding and equitable distribution going forward, which includes embedding human rights into a new pandemic treaty. Above all, new legal instruments and mechanisms, from a right to health treaty to a fund for civil society right to health advocacy, are required so that the narratives of future health emergencies—and people’s daily lives—are ones of equality and human rights.”

360 Info - The foreign policy fallout of COVID-19

I Kickbusch; <https://360info.org/the-foreign-policy-fallout-of-covid-19/>

“The pandemic gave health diplomacy its stiffest test. While there were successes, geopolitical power games resulted in failures.”

Development Today - How Nordic donors have grown apart

<https://www.development-today.com/archive/dt-2022/dt-8--2022/nordic-donors-have-grown-apart-study>

(gated) ***“While the aid policies of the four Nordic donors have grown apart over the last two decades, Denmark has been marked by a “paradigm shift” caused by the politicisation of aid, coupled with massive cuts. Similar radical changes may be underway in Sweden and Norway, according to a comprehensive new study on trends in Nordic aid. “There is no such thing as one unique Nordic [aid] model,” it states.”***

Bloomberg - China's Aid Exports Climb to \$1.3 Billion on Vaccines

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-11-15/china-s-aid-exports-hit-1-3-billion-last-year-on-vaccine-gifts#xj4y7vzkg>

“Chinese donations of physical aid jumped to almost \$1.3 billion last year as the government, companies and individuals gave vaccines, food and other goods to foreign nations. The value of donated goods was almost 40% higher than in 2020, according to a new database created by academics at the University of Göttingen and the Kiel Institute for the World Economy in Germany, and the University of Groningen in the Netherlands. Pharmaceutical and medical exports were the top donation categories, reflecting the impact of the pandemic.” ...”

Donated goods account for a quarter of Chinese overseas aid.

Reuters - WHO chief scientist departs ahead of broader shake-up

[Reuters:](#)

“The chief scientist of the World Health Organization, Soumya Swaminathan, said on Tuesday she was leaving the agency, the first of a series of high-profile departures expected at the global health body as it prepares for a post-pandemic future.”

Global health financing

WP - White House seeks more covid funding in lame-duck session

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2022/11/14/biden-covid-funding-request-congress/>

“The White House mounted another effort on Tuesday to secure billions of dollars from Congress for a new generation of coronavirus vaccines and treatments, even as Republicans remain skeptical about how past allocations were spent.”

“Biden officials finalized a request this week for about \$10 billion in public health funds by year’s end, part of a larger request in the lame-duck session of Congress that would also include funding for Ukraine and disaster relief for hurricane damage in Florida, according to six people who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe confidential budget discussions.

That request includes \$8.25 billion for covid-response efforts, including a successor to Operation Warp Speed that some call “Project Covid Shield,” intended to jump-start development of coronavirus vaccines and treatments that would be effective against an evolving virus. Officials also are debating about \$2 billion for other health efforts, including about \$1 billion for the global covid response, as well as about \$750 million to combat diseases such as hepatitis C and monkeypox.....”

UHC & PHC

BMJ GH Supplement - Making Health Insurance Responsive to Citizens

https://gh.bmj.com/content/7/Suppl_6

“A new series of articles in @GlobalHealthBMJ brings together a first set of country case studies about better engaging citizens in insurance programmes.”

For an overview of the Supplement, see also this WHO Alliance press release - [Making health insurance responsive to citizens](#).

Lancet Global Health (Comment) - Ensuring the right to health along the life course

Juliet Nabyonga-Orem; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(22\)00458-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(22)00458-2/fulltext)

Comment related to a new study in the Lancet GH.

*“In The Lancet Global Health, the GBD 2019 Healthcare Access and Quality Collaborators report improvement in the Healthcare Access and Quality (HAQ) Index over the period 1990–2019, which aligns with observed improvements in the WHO universal health service coverage index. However, the collaborators highlight gaps in the HAQ Index across countries as well as between best-performing and other health systems for working age (15–64 years) and post-working age (65–74 years) populations. **The authors bring to the fore the health of older people (post-working) as a group that is left behind.** Abdi and colleagues also report unmet health needs for older people, further compounded by physical, social, and environmental factors. Evidence further shows older age as one of the drivers of out-of-pocket funding. As life expectancy improves, such evidence should serve as a clarion call to governments to implement relevant policies.....”*

WB’s Investing in Health (blog) - Tackling health care supply chain challenges through innovations in measurement

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/health/tackling-health-care-supply-chain-challenges-through-innovations-measurement>

“...Supply chain management (SCM), which involves planning and managing inventory, sourcing, financing, receiving, conducting quality control, warehousing, and distributing medical products to health clinics, pharmacies, and hospitals, has long been a neglected—but crucial—aspect of health care. The World Bank’s Service Delivery Indicators (SDI) health team has a revamped, innovative survey that includes measurement of SCM—which makes the SDI the first large-scale, internationally comparable survey that assesses the resilience and performance of SCM in primary health care (PHC) facilities.....”

Links:

- Reuters: [Nigerians trade waste material for health insurance](#)
- HP&P - [Examining the Influence of Budget Execution Processes on the Efficiency of County Health Systems in Kenya](#) (by A Musiega et al)
- Plos GPH - [Improving access to health services through health reform in Lesotho: Progress made towards achieving Universal Health Coverage](#)

Pandemic preparedness & response/ Global Health Security

UHC 2030 - A critical opportunity to prioritise investment in universal health coverage as essential for successful pandemic prevention, preparedness and response

<https://www.uhc2030.org/news-and-stories/news/prioritise-investment-in-universal-health-coverage/>

A statement from UHC2030's co-chairs ahead of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) meeting in December 2022.

“As the INB convenes for its third meeting in December 2022 to discuss the zero draft of the pandemic accord, world leaders must focus on strengthening health systems that deliver for all people and countries. Universal health coverage (UHC) and health security are two intertwined goals to protect everyone, everywhere, that we achieve through the same health system - in crisis and calm.....”

“...The objective of a pandemic accord must, as noted in the current working draft (document A/INB/2/3) explicitly reference “elevating the goal of UHC, using a primary health care (PHC) approach, as a key prerequisite for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response; and for the resilience of health systems facing threats or shocks.”....”

Nature - Why do bat viruses keep infecting people?

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-03682-9>

*“Landmark study reveals ‘spillover’ mechanism for the rare but deadly **Hendra virus.**”*

TGH - A Plan B to Strengthen Biosafety and Biosecurity

G Koblenz et al; <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/plan-b-strengthen-biosafety-and-biosecurity>

“A “minilateral” approach is needed to strengthen global biorisk management.”

*“Opened for signature in 1972, the **Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC)** has proven to be remarkably durable. With its deliberately broad scope, the BWC continues to cover cutting-edge developments in genome editing and next-generation biotechnology that were far beyond the imagination of the diplomats who crafted the treaty. However, **the mechanisms established to update the BWC are no longer fit for purpose. Countries committed to reducing the risks posed by the misuse of biology should explore alternative “minilateral” strategies for strengthening global biorisk management.** At the **end of November**, BWC member states will convene to **review** the treaty for the ninth time.”*

And a link:

Washington Post - [Before FTX collapse, founder poured millions into pandemic prevention](#)

“Most of those initiatives have come to a sudden halt.”

Planetary health

Devex - Malpass to staff: World Bank exploring climate finance, more lending

<https://www.devex.com/news/malpass-to-staff-world-bank-exploring-climate-finance-more-lending-104452>

*“**World Bank President David Malpass** is “exploring all the options available” to increase the anti-poverty lender’s financial capabilities to counter a backsliding in key global development measures, help nations with **large debt** loads, and meet the growing demand for more climate finance.Malpass told staff he is taking a **three-pronged approach to potentially reform the lender** in what is being dubbed an “evolution roadmap.” The first is to expand into more so-called “global public goods” such as climate; the second, to get more capital to middle-income countries; and the third, to seek options for increasing the bank’s deployment of financial firepower — basically finding sustainable ways to lend more.” “*

Devex - South Africa signs loans for coal transition but warns on climate debt

<https://www.devex.com/news/south-africa-signs-loans-for-coal-transition-but-warns-on-climate-debt-104421>

“South Africa’s clean energy transition has reached the “tangible implementation” phase after signing two loan agreements with German and French development agencies that will be disbursed early next year, Daniel Mminele, head of the Presidential Climate Finance Task Team, told Devex.”

*“Last year in Glasgow, at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference, South Africa agreed with European nations and the United States on a framework to decommission coal plants. Recent announcements of funding from the Climate Investments Fund and the World Bank put that project on track. South Africa’s Treasury confirmed the terms of the loan agreements with Germany and France, which are highly concessional. Each country has put up €300 million repayable over 20 years, with France offering a 3.6% interest rate and Germany giving a 3%. **The terms are far better***

than could be obtained on capital markets, both in terms of the interest rates and the repayment periods. At market prices, South Africa would likely need to borrow at interest rates nearly three times the German offer.”

“...Mminele also issued a few words of caution, noting that the energy transition cannot have disastrous second-order consequences for developing countries. “We make sure that in trying to solve one problem around climate risk and climate change, we don't inadvertently cause another one by loading up on climate-related debt,” he said. The transition process has to be “country-led,” meaning that governments are in control, and not ceding the steering wheel to donors, he stressed....”

And somewhat along the same lines: Nikkei - [Indonesia wins \\$20bn in G-7, other support to speed net zero push](#)

“Indonesia has obtained at least \$20 billion in funding commitments from developed nations led by the United States and Japan to speed up its clean energy transition and move forward its net zero carbon pledge by 10 years. All members of the Group of Seven advanced economies plus Denmark and Norway, on Tuesday launched the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP) specifically for the Southeast Asian country. They intend to mobilize an initial \$20 billion in public and private financing over the next three to five years to help it significantly reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. “It is arguably the single largest country-specific climate investment partnership ever,” John Morton, climate counselor to the U.S. treasury secretary, told a news conference...”

Plos GPH - Achieving climate justice, safeguarding planetary health: Diagnosis and demands from next generation leaders for COP27 and beyond

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0001304>

By Renzo Guinto et al.

Devex - Climate crisis forces Wellcome to rethink health research funding

<https://www.devex.com/news/climate-crisis-forces-wellcome-to-rethink-health-research-funding-104426>

“Funders need to diversify and ensure they’re getting research resources to people most affected by the health impacts of climate change — something that [Wellcome](#) is currently trying to embed in its work, according to the British charity’s policy lead on health and climate....”

HPW - Plastics on Track to Account for 20% of Oil and Gas Production by 2050

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/plastics-account-for-20-oil-and-gas-2050/>

“As global delegations fight to keep the dream of limiting warming to 1.5C within reach, plastic pollution contaminating aquatic life, soil quality and the human body, is skyrocketing. The relentless growth of demand for plastics driven by subsidies for fossil fuels, coupled with the failure of

recycling and waste management systems to keep pace, has set **a trajectory whereby plastics consumption will account for 20% of global oil and gas production by 2050....**”

“Plastics consumption quadrupled over the past 30 years: In the past 30 years, plastic consumption has quadrupled to reach 460 million tons in 2019. Global production of recycled plastics has more than quadrupled in this same period to 29.1 megatons per year, but this represents just 6% of global plastics production. The other 94% are ‘virgin’ plastics made new from crude oil or gas, according to the OECD. Along with the direct effects of plastics on health, their proliferation is also destroying the ocean’s ability to absorb carbon.....”

PS: **“The World Trade Organization (WTO) has recently taken heed of the damage fossil fuel subsidies are doing to the climate, a shift attested to in their report on Trade and Climate released earlier this week at COP27.....”**

Devex - Humanitarian system not designed to withstand climate change, WFP says

<https://www.devex.com/news/humanitarian-system-not-designed-to-withstand-climate-change-wfp-says-104418>

“Climate change is wreaking havoc on the humanitarian aid system, particularly when it comes to food, and the mentality needs to shift from reactive to proactive to prevent the system from buckling, said the [World Food Programme](#)’s director of climate and disaster risk reduction.....”

Guardian - Increasing demand for oil and fuel threatens African nations’ economies, analysis finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/14/demand-for-oil-threatens-african-economies>

“Carbon Tracker thinktank says investors in fossil fuels on the continent would be left with stranded assets.”

“Expanding oil and gas exports would threaten the economic stability of many African countries, new analysis has found, despite soaring fossil fuel prices. Demand for fossil fuels is likely to fall sharply in the medium term, according to a [report published on Monday by the Carbon Tracker thinktank](#). That makes **relying on gas exports to fuel economic growth a short-term, risky strategy, while boosting solar power would prove a better long-term bet, the analysis found. Although gas prices are high now, and the top five oil and gas companies alone have made profits of more than \$170bn so far this year, **gas revenues would fall by half by 2040, and the gas market would see record low prices owing to shrinking demand**, the report forecast. **That would leave Africa with huge investments in gas infrastructure, but no export market, if countries pursued a “dash for gas” now, the analysis found.....”****

Devex Invested: A climate finance bonanza meets a dose of skepticism

<https://www.devex.com/news/devex-invested-a-climate-finance-bonanza-meets-a-dose-of-skepticism-104442>

*“It’s too early for a clear verdict on COP 27, as the United Nations climate conference is still underway, but **it’s been a busy time in the climate finance industry**. We saw [South Africa sign loans](#) to transition away from coal, a plethora of new announcements, and a **scathing critique of greenwashing from the U.N. chief**.”*

With an overview. Among others, on the **net-zero backlash, the catalytic conversion of the Green Climate fund,**

UN News - UNICEF launches new child-focused climate initiative to head off disasters

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130652>

*The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on Wednesday launched a new climate financing initiative designed to help countries address current and growing impacts of the climate crisis, and better cope with disasters. The **Today and Tomorrow initiative**, for the first time, combines funding for immediate resilience and risk prevention programmes for children today, with risk transfer finance provided by the insurance market to help cope with future cyclones.....”*

HPW - Can Healthcare Systems Decarbonize While Scaling Up Healthcare?

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/healthcare-systems-decarbonize/>

Coverage of a recent webinar. *“The healthcare sector is responsible for over 5% of global carbon emissions, double the amount of the aviation sector. But there is a way for healthcare actors to reduce this while at the same maintaining the quality of care in developed countries and expanding access to healthcare in developing countries. This is according to panellists at a recent event on “Healthcare and climate change: Victim or perpetrator hosted by the Graduate Institute’s Global Health Center. “*

*“Sonia Roschnik, executive director at the **Geneva Sustainability Centre**, said that how the planet is faring is inherent to people’s health. The centre, which opened this year, has put **greening healthcare delivery for better health and a healthier climate** at the core of its agenda. “*

PS: *“The panellists agreed that decarbonizing should not come at the expense of ensuring access to healthcare in developing countries, where often facilities lack access to electricity, let alone green energy. However, they pointed out that there are opportunities to build systems in low-resourced settings and solar energy.....”*

Lancet Planetary Health - The counterintuitive role of efficiency: implications for the ecological impact of health care

C Sue-Chue-Lam et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanph/article/PIIS2542-5196\(22\)00256-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanph/article/PIIS2542-5196(22)00256-X/fulltext)

“In this Comment...”. we argue “ that efficiency measures can directly, but unintentionally, contribute to growing ecological harms by entrenching what are ultimately unsustainable practices.....”

And via ONE's [Aftershocks](#) newsletter:

*"...Germany announced a €170 million contribution to the newly launched **Global Shield against Climate Risks**. The insurance-like initiative launched by the G7 and the V20, a group of climate-vulnerable countries, aims to provide low-income countries with money to rebuild after climate-related disasters. Critics say it's an **unwelcome distraction** from the wider demands of climate-vulnerable countries for climate compensation, known in the negotiations as **loss and damage**...."*

Covid

WHO - COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery Partnership - October 2022

<https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/covid-19-vaccine-delivery-partnership-october-2022>

Update. Among the key findings:

"While the vaccination momentum slows down globally, there still is steady progress among the 34 countries for concerted support. The coverage rate across AMC92 countries now stands at 52%, up from 28% in January. The 34 countries for concerted support now have an average coverage rate of 20% compared to just 3% in January 2022. • In October, Rwanda became the first African country to reach the 70% global target, and Zambia the first country with below 10% coverage in January to exceed 40% primary series coverage. • Countries facing humanitarian emergencies have made important progress despite competing priorities: Somalia has more than doubled its vaccination rate in just 8 weeks to reach 37% by the end of October, Mali is the latest country to exceed 10% primary series coverage, and Nigeria has surpassed the 20% mark. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) almost doubled its coverage since September – from 3.4% to 6.2%. • At 55 million, the number of total doses administered per month across AMC participants is at its lowest since COVAX started supplying vaccines. Many AMC participants continue to implement campaigns to reach their national targets but there are diminishing returns to this strategy in a number of countries due to higher coverage rates, competing priorities and diminished risk perceptions. • Several of the 34 countries for concerted support are continuing to accelerate vaccine delivery into Q1 2023. CoVDP will continue to support the 34 countries for concerted support until March/April 2023, with more selective and targeted interventions after January 2023, based on country need. • Integration of COVID-19 vaccine delivery with primary health services will increasingly be prioritized by countries in the coming months – a process that partner agencies will support through technical assistance, guidance, and funding (including through the Gavi CDS)."

AP - Africa CDC chief urges more COVID-19 testing as cases rise

<https://apnews.com/article/health-africa-public-covid-uganda-af75046c0dab943d77c7987b0b250ad6>

"The head of Africa's top public health institute is urging authorities across the continent to step up COVID-19 testing amid a concerning rise in new cases in some countries. The continent of 1.3 billion people saw a 37% rise in new cases over the past week, Ahmed Ogwell, acting director of the

Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said Thursday. **Over the last four weeks there's been an 11% rise in new cases, he said....."**

Cidrap News - As global COVID cases rise, multiple viruses stress health systems

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/news-perspective/2022/11/global-covid-cases-rise-multiple-viruses-stress-health-systems>

"Global COVID-19 cases showed a small rise last week, with infection increasing in three world regions, the World Health Organization (WHO) said today in its [weekly update](#)....."

PS: **"In some countries in the Americas—one region where cases are rising—brisk flu and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity is also straining hospitals, prompting a warning today from the head of the WHO's Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)....."**

WHO (brief) - Policy, system and practice response to alcohol consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic in seven countries of the WHO African Region. Brief 9, October 2022.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240061903>

"This Snapshot describes and synthesizes the policy changes in alcohol policies, systems and practices adopted by seven African countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe....."

Stat - A very worrying scenario': Internal documents on India Covid-19 vaccine raise troubling questions about approval process

[Stat News](#);

(gated) **"In reviewing documents that detail steps taken toward government approval, STAT's Ed Silverman found that regulators endorsed the vaccine, called Covaxin (shown above), despite discrepancies in the number of clinical trial participants and questionable changes made to the trial protocols. Bharat Biotech executives acknowledged some mistakes but mentioned "political" pressure."**

And via [HPW](#): **India's Covaxin still suspended by WHO**

"The WHO has still not resumed supplies of Covaxin, India's indigenous vaccine against COVID-19, the global body confirmed. In March, the WHO inspected the manufacturing site of Bharat Biotech, which produces Covaxin and found serious irregularities in the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) at the site. This resulted in the global health agency suspending the supply of the vaccine through UN's procurement agencies in April, stating the company had altered the GMP after it received the Emergency Use Licence (EUL) from WHO."

Bloomberg - Doctors Are Running Out of Antibody Drugs to Treat Covid as Virus Mutates

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-11-16/covid-s-mutations-leave-doctors-with-far-fewer-antibody-drugs-to-treat-virus#xj4y7vzkg>

“Covid-19’s constant mutations have proven nearly impossible for drugmakers to keep up with. Omicron’s newest variants threaten to render the last two antibody drugs on the market ineffective: Eli Lilly & Co.’s bebtelovimab, which is used to treat symptoms, and AstraZeneca Plc’s Evusheld, which helps prevent infections. “

Lancet Offline – COVID-19—the lessons that science forgot

R Horton; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)02358-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)02358-3/fulltext)

*“Economist Impact, a policy research team within The Economist Group, supported by The Lancet's publisher Elsevier, last week launched **Confidence in Research—a report exploring attitudes of scientists to the practice and communication of science during the pandemic.** Based on a survey of over 3000 researchers worldwide, Economist Impact identified important actions that should be considered if mistakes are not to be repeated during future health emergencies.”*

Horton adds five lessons of his own.

Monkeypox

Lancet Infectious Diseases (Comment) - Inadequate diagnostic capacity for monkeypox—sleeping through the alarm again

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(22\)00744-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(22)00744-7/fulltext)

By C Boodman et al.

Link:

Reuters - [EU secures up to 2 million monkeypox vaccine doses from Bavarian Nordic](#) For the next two years.

Infectious diseases & NTDs

Devex - Is the first malaria vaccine worth the cost?

<https://www.devex.com/news/is-the-first-malaria-vaccine-worth-the-cost-104287>

“In October 2021, the World Health Organization recommended the expanded use of the first malaria vaccine — RTS,S or Mosquirix — among children living in regions with moderate to high malaria transmission. The vaccine, which is still in the pilot phase in Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi, will soon be rolled out nationally.....”

Good analysis of pros and cons, from a cost-effectiveness point of view.

Plos GPH - What are the barriers and facilitators to polio vaccination and eradication programs? A systematic review

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0001283>

By O Ezezika et al.

AMR

CGD (blog) - The World Needs New Antibiotics. A Proposed US Program to Develop Them Would Pay Off 28:1

R Silverman et al ; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/world-needs-new-antibiotics-proposed-us-program-develop-them-would-pay-281>

Blog related to a new CGD paper.

“A subscription-based pull mechanism is included in the [pending PASTEUR Act](#), which was [introduced by lawmakers](#) in the US House of Representatives and Senate and endorsed in President Biden’s 2023 budget request. And the great news, for the US and the world, is that such an investment would offer a massive pay-off. In a [new paper](#), we estimate the expected ROI for such a program—that is, an ambitious new program to incentivize antibiotic development via a US government subscription-based pull mechanism. We don’t explicitly model the PASTEUR Act; instead we construct an illustrative example from first principles, with parameters drawn (where possible) from the literature, and using some simplifying and deliberately conservative assumptions about program design and remuneration. Nevertheless, the results are indicative for the PASTEUR Act itself, or of any other similar initiative.”

“From the US perspective alone, we find that such a program is likely to offer an extraordinary ROI in both the short and long-term. Considering both the value of averted death/disease and associated hospital costs, every dollar invested would yield \$6 dollars of value over the program’s first 10 years, and \$28 dollars over a 30-year time horizon (Table 1).....”

Related: Wired - [The \\$6 Billion Shot at Making New Antibiotics—Before the Old Ones Fail](#)

Also on the Pasteur Act in the US.

Lancet Comment - Globalisation of antibiotic-resistant bacteria at recurring mass gathering events

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(22\)01995-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(22)01995-X/fulltext)

*“... Opportunities for reviewing knowledge gaps and refocusing scientific, political, and funder attention on priority antimicrobial resistance research will arise during World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, Nov 18–24, 2022. During World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, the quadripartite organisations—WHO, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, the UN Environment Programme, and the World Organisation for Animal Health—will promote the multisectoral approach of preventing antimicrobial resistance together. Although the focus will be on conventional antimicrobial resistance agendas, **the neglected issue of the globalisation of antimicrobial resistance through mass gathering religious and pride festival events must now be a priority agenda at the upcoming World Antimicrobial Awareness Week, given that these events could yield substantial exacerbating factors driving the antimicrobial resistance pandemic....”***

And a link:

Lancet Comment - [Antimicrobial resistance in cities: an overlooked challenge that requires a multidisciplinary approach](#) (by Clare Chandler et al)

NCDs

Guardian - One billion young people risk hearing loss from loud music

https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/nov/15/one-billion-young-people-risk-hearing-loss-from-loud-music?CMP=share_btn_tw

Coverage of new BMJ GH research.

“More than 1 billion teenagers and young adults may be at risk of hearing loss because of their use of headphones, earphones and earbuds and attendance at loud music venues, a study suggests. An international team of researchers estimate that 24% of 12- to 34-year-olds are listening to music on personal listening devices at an “unsafe level”. The findings were published in the journal [BMJ Global Health](#). They called for governments to “urgently” implement safe listening policies.....”

And a tweet by Kent Buse:

*“A £10m grant from @NIHRglobal is helping establish a **Global Health Research Centre on Non-Communicable Diseases and Environmental Change** in partnership with @GeorgelInstIN & @imperialcollege”. Was launched on 17 Nov.*

Social & commercial determinants of health

Book - Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity (3rd edition)

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/add.16003>

Summary article of the book. *“This article summarizes the findings and conclusions of the third edition of Alcohol: No Ordinary Commodity. The latest revision of this book is part of a series of monographs designed to provide a critical review of the scientific evidence related to alcohol control policy from a public health perspective.....”*

Sexual & Reproductive health rights

GFF - Commitment to primary health care supports better health for women, children and adolescents but more remains to be done amid overlapping crises

<https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/commitment-primary-health-care-supports-better-health-women-children-and-adolescents-more-remains-be>

“Global Financing Facility (GFF) is bolstered by a new collaboration with USAID’s Bureau for Global Health to accelerate gains in primary health care.”

“... [The GFF Annual Report 2021-2022](#), released today, demonstrates that countries with continued commitment to primary health care (PHC) are achieving better health outcomes for women, children and adolescents. Investments in PHC are strengthening resilience and supporting progress, despite overlapping crises. At the same time, stark equity gaps in health service coverage within countries continue to impact lives and will require additional investment.....”

Guardian - Humans could face reproductive crisis as sperm count declines, study finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2022/nov/15/humans-could-face-reproductive-crisis-as-sperm-count-declines-study-finds>

“Global figures suggest sperm concentration has halved in 40 years – and the rate of decline is accelerating.”

*“Humans could face a reproductive crisis if action is not taken to tackle a drop in sperm count, researchers have warned after finding the rate of decline is accelerating. **A study published in the journal Human Reproduction Update**, based on 153 estimates from men who were probably unaware of their fertility, suggests that the average sperm concentration fell from an estimated 101.2m per ml to 49.0m per ml between 1973 and 2018 – a drop of 51.6%. Total sperm counts fell by 62.3% during the same period. [Research by the same team](#), reported in 2017, found that sperm concentration had more than halved in the last 40 years. However, at the time a lack of data for other parts of the world meant the findings were focused on a region encompassing Europe, North America and Australia. The latest study includes more recent data from 53 countries.....”*

BMJ Editorial - Accurate surveillance of maternal deaths is an international priority

A Shennan et al ; <https://www.bmj.com/content/379/bmj.o2691>

« Variations in maternal mortality remain one of the starkest health injustices in the world. »

Neonatal and child health

WHO advises immediate skin to skin care for survival of small and preterm babies

<https://www.who.int/news/item/15-11-2022-who-advises-immediate-skin-to-skin-care-for-survival-of-small-and-preterm-babies>

“WHO today launched [new guidelines](#) to improve survival and health outcomes for babies born early (before 37 weeks of pregnancy) or small (under 2.5kg at birth). The guidelines advise that skin to skin contact with a caregiver – known as kangaroo mother care – should start immediately after birth, without any initial period in an incubator. This marks a significant change from earlier guidance and common clinical practice, reflecting the immense health benefits of ensuring caregivers and their preterm babies can stay close, without being separated, after birth. The guidelines also provide recommendations to ensure emotional, financial and workplace support for families of very small and preterm babies, who can face extraordinary stress and hardship because of intensive caregiving demands and anxieties around their babies’ health.”

“...The guidelines were released ahead of World Prematurity Day, which is marked every year on 17th November.”

Coverage via **the Guardian** – [Kangaroo mother care’ best for early and low-weight babies, says WHO](#)

Adolescent health

HPW -The Double-Edged Sword of the Digital Health Transformation

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/double-edged-sword-digital-health/>

“New report highlights the impact of social media on the health of young people in middle- and low-income countries. “

*“The digital transformation of health offers both significant empowerment potential and significant risks for young people, according to a new study published Tuesday by the **Global Health Centre of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies**. The report, **“Digital health and human rights of young adults in Ghana, Kenya and Vietnam,”** highlights young people’s increasing dependence on social networks such as Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and TikTok to access health information, and demonstrates the challenges and opportunities that arise in the realm of human right as a result. “We hear all this excitement around digital health and we don’t know*

how much is hype and how much is true,” explained Prof. Sara “Meg” Davis, a senior researcher for the Digital Health and Rights Project, who led the study. “There are also concerns for people who are marginalized or vulnerable” on the digital platforms.....”

“....Davis and her international team have been working on the report for two years. It **will be formally released during a public webinar on November 22** titled “[Digital justice: How social media is transforming young people’s health and rights.](#)” The webinar will take place from 14:00-15:30 CEST. [Registration](#) is available online.”

The Report – [Young adults in Ghana, Kenya and Vietnam rely on social media for health information. New study finds risks and benefits](#)

Access to medicines & health technology

Delays in global, affordable access to long-acting, injectable HIV medicines would cost lives, say AIDS campaigners

https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2022/november/20221116_long-acting-injectable-HIV-medicines

*“Reflecting on **100 days since the 24th International AIDS Conference in Montreal**, at which the World Health Organisation issued landmark guidance on how long-acting injectable anti-retroviral medicines can help prevent new HIV infections, and ViiV Healthcare committed to enabling access, **AIDS campaigners are urging ViiV Healthcare to take vital next steps to enable timely rollout of game-changing, life-saving, long-acting injectable HIV medicine to millions of people.**”*

Business wire - Curapath Announces Collaboration with Afrigen Biologics to Advance Development of African-owned mRNA SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine

[Business wire](#);

“Curapath, a leader in the design, development, and custom manufacturing of polyamino-acid- and lipid-based nanoparticle delivery systems for therapeutics and vaccines, today announced a collaboration with Afrigen Biologics to advance the development of the first African-owned mRNA SARS-Cov-2 vaccine. Under the collaboration, Curapath will be responsible for development of a scaled-up manufacturing process of the nanoparticle formulation for the vaccine and will assist in developing the fill/finish process.....”

HPW - WHO Biosimilar Guidelines Are a Tepid Attempt to Improve Access and Affordability

KM Gopakumar et al ; <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/who-biosimilar-guidelines-are-a-tepid-attempt-to-improve-access-and-affordability/>

“Biotherapeutic products represent a new therapeutic revolution in disease treatment and are by far the fastest-growing segment of the pharmaceutical industry – yet the recent biosimilar

guidelines issued by the World Health Organization (WHO) are myopic, inconsistent or vague about some well-established scientific issues.....”

With five key concerns.

BMJ GH - A global social contract to ensure access to essential medicines and health technologies

K Perhudoff et al ; <https://gh.bmj.com/content/7/11/e010057>

“The COVID-19 pandemic illuminates the need to move away from the current social contract, which focuses on the nation-state’s responsibility for protecting the health of its own population, including by providing essential medicines and health technologies. We argue for embracing a global social contract, which is a governance concept that lays the foundation for how states should act as members of the international community, as regulators of the private pharmaceutical industry and as guarantors of public goods benefiting people worldwide. A global social contract should be based on a set of four principles: collective state stewardship of the pharmaceutical and health technology; equity and the protection of health as a human right; an effective global polity; and governmental transparency and democratic accountability. This foundation can serve as a basis for a future pandemic treaty and as a model to address the much broader global crisis of inequitable access to medicines and health technologies for infectious and non-communicable diseases.....”

Reuters - Germany's BioNTech says to set up mRNA vaccine facility in Singapore

[Reuters:](#)

*“BioNTech SE (22UAY.DE), the German biotech that developed a widely used COVID-19 vaccine with Pfizer Inc (PFE.N), **acquired a manufacturing facility in Singapore, its first in Asia**, the company said on Monday. The facility, bought from a Novartis (NOVN.S) unit, will be its first messenger ribonucleic acid, or mRNA, facility in Singapore and support its vaccines production for the Asia Pacific region, BioNTech said in a statement, without disclosing financial details.....”*

And a few links:

South Centre (Research paper) - [Left on Our Own: COVID-19, TRIPS-Plus Free Trade Agreements, and the Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health](#)

*“...This paper argues that the current iteration of the Doha Declaration within TRIPS fails to meet the objectives of the Declaration as demonstrated by the need for a further waiver of the TRIPS agreement. It also **attempts to “reimagine” Article 31 bis in light of the TRIPS waiver from the position of the Global South** to make it more equitable and practicable and maintain the spirit of the Declaration.....”*

MSF Access - [In October 2022, MSF approved and published its first Clinical Trial Transparency Policy \(CTTP\)](#).

Decolonize Global Health

Development & Change - Southern Discomfort: Interrogating the Category of the Global South

N Sud et al ; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/dech.12742>

« Researchers in development studies have expressed discomfort at the hierarchy inherent in the use of 'North' and 'South', and cognate concepts like 'First' and 'Third World', or 'emerging economies'. **Instead of setting aside the terminology, this article delves into the layered meaning-making around the notion of the South.** Drawing on multi- and inter-disciplinary perspectives, **it maps out the South as** (1) territory constructed through history, geography and time, and characterized by (2) relations of domination and othering, which are starkly visible in racial divisions wrought on the world through slavery, colonialism and recent struggles around migration. **The article then explores Southern 'talk back' through analysis initiated in Southern institutions which highlights** (3) structures that continue to divide the world through a political economy of underdevelopment. Finally, it turns to (4) politics which challenges these structures of domination through direct action and solidarities. **The conclusion revisits the 'stickiness' of 'the South'. It is argued that the South as a territorial, relational, structural and political construct is fundamentally about the distribution of power in the global system. While some uses of the concept enhance power asymmetries, others contribute to reducing them. This article concludes that a critical understanding of the contradictory meanings and uses of the concept within development studies is more important than discursive attempts to replace it.** »

Miscellaneous

UN News - UN's game plan for sanitation for all

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/11/1130762>

"Ahead of World Toilet Day on 19 November, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) is launching a new game plan to help governments achieve safely managed sanitation for their populations and meet the sanitation target laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

"In a 2020 estimate, 3.6 billion people lacked safely managed sanitation services. The rate of sanitation coverage increase would need to quadruple to achieve universal access to safely managed services by 2030, Ms. Thomas said, describing the situation as "a sanitation crisis", especially for women and children. "Through [the Game Plan to Reach Safety Managed Sanitation 2022-2030](#), UNICEF will support 1 billion people gain access to safely managed sanitation, through direct and indirect support, in collaboration with partners."

Guardian - India faces deepening demographic divide as it prepares to overtake China as the world's most populous country

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/14/india-faces-deepening-demographic-divide-as-it-prepares-to-overtake-china-as-the-worlds-most-populous-country>

“India’s entrenched north-south divide is growing as its population changes, with serious social and political consequences.”

*“India is currently home to more than 1.39 billion people – four times that of the US and more than 20 times the UK – while 1.41bn live in China. But with 86,000 babies born in India every day, and 49,400 in China, **India is on course to take the lead in 2023** and hit 1.65 billion people by 2060. On 15 November the world’s population will reach a total of 8 billion people. Between now and 2050, over half of the projected increase in the global population will happen in just eight countries: the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the United Republic of Tanzania – and India.....”*

Devex - Population hits 8 billion, but UNFPA sees bigger things to worry about

https://www.devex.com/news/population-hits-8-billion-but-unfpa-sees-bigger-things-to-worry-about-104460#.Y3SVH_mcp9A.twitter

*“... For Rachel Snow, the chief of the population and development branch at UNFPA, there are other problems more worrying than how many people inhabit the planet. COVID-19, the Ukraine war, and climate change are sobering reminders that hard-fought gains in development can easily be upended. **But a seismic shift in demographics has also created a complicated global dynamic. On the one hand, youth populations are set to explode in lower-income countries, testing already fragile economies. On the other hand, the economies of wealthier countries will also be tested, not by too many young people but by too few because of low fertility rates. Migration could be the answer for both sides.....”***

Devex - MacKenzie Scott's giving 'profoundly positive' for nonprofits: report

<https://www.devex.com/news/mackenzie-scott-s-giving-profoundly-positive-for-nonprofits-report-104283>

Coverage of a new (Center for Effective Philanthropy) report.

*“...The report tracked her gifts starting with a [July 2020](#) announcement of \$1.6 billion for 116 organizations up until [her third round](#) in the summer of 2021. The report is based on responses collected from 277 nonprofits and 40 leaders of grantee organizations. It was published by the **Center for Effective Philanthropy, or CEP**, a nonprofit that provides philanthropy research and advisory services to donors.....”*

See also [Devex](#): *“... **On the heels of COP 27, billionaire Amazon founder Jeff Bezos [announced on CNN](#) that he will give away the bulk of his wealth, much of it to fighting climate change.** Bezos’ strategy to give away his billions, which is sure to be **meticulously planned**, stands in contrast to the **more laissez-faire approach of his former wife MacKenzie Scott**, who’s become a philanthropic *“[fairy godmother](#)”* to her fans. Since 2020, **Scott has given away more than \$14 billion** in unrestricted funds to over 1,500 organizations. **The Center for Effective Philanthropy just released a report — immediately following [another round](#) of gifts totaling close to \$2 billion — that tracks where that money has gone.....”***

Reuters - Amazon launches virtual healthcare clinic in U.S. for common ailments

[Reuters](#)

“Amazon launched Amazon clinic on Tuesday, a virtual platform for common healthcare conditions like allergies, acne and asthma, expanding the e-commerce giant's presence in the U.S. healthcare space.....”

Papers & reports

Conflict & Health - A literature review exploring how health systems respond to acute shocks in fragile and conflict-affected countries

K M Thu, S Abimbola et al; <https://conflictandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13031-022-00484-8>

*“Understanding how health systems respond to shocks has become a pressing need to strengthen response efforts. With already fragmented and disrupted health services, fragile and conflict affected [FCA] countries are more vulnerable to shocks. Previous studies have focused more on conceptualizing health system resilience rather than how health systems [especially in FCA countries] respond to or are resilient to acute shocks. **To understand how health systems in FCA countries respond to the shocks and what influence their responses, we conducted a review of the literature published between January 2011 and September 2021 on health system responses to acute shocks in FCA countries.”***

Lancet Global Health – December issue

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current>

Start with the Editorial - [Moving mycoses up the global agenda](#)

*“..... **C neoformans topped the list of “critical” fungal pathogens on the WHO fungal priority pathogens list to guide research, development and public health action published in October, 2022. We applaud WHO for producing this much-needed report, with its clear priority actions for policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and pharmaceutical companies. **Adding more invasive mycoses to its list of neglected tropical diseases, as was called for in a [Viewpoint](#) we published last year, would add further impetus for global action.****”*

BMJ GH- The autonomy of public health facilities in decentralised contexts: insights from applying a complexity lens in Kenya

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/7/11/e010260>

By E Barasa et al.

IJHPM - Re-Evaluating our Knowledge of Health System Resilience During COVID-19: Lessons From the First Two Years of the Pandemic

D Saulnier, K Blanchet et al; http://www.ijhpm.com/article_4345.html

"...This narrative literature review aims to address four questions using a health system resilience framework: i) What do we understand about the dimensions of resilience? ii) What aspects of the resilience dimensions remain uncertain? iii) What aspects of the resilience dimensions are missing from the COVID-19 discussions? and iv) What has COVID-19 taught us about resilience that is missing?"

Blogs & op-eds

IHP - Time to Rethink Global Collaboration: Travel restrictions for global health professionals

<https://www.internationalhealthpolicies.org/featured-article/time-to-rethink-global-collaboration-travel-restrictions-for-global-health-professionals/>

State of affairs & way forward by **Joseph Kazibwe** (EV 2022). After #HSR2022.

Tweets of the week

Ilona Kickbusch

« Ready for more #globalhealth diplomacy in 2023? - health will be negotiated at #G20India #G7Japan - #EUSweden presidency #pandemic treaty - #HLMUHC #TB and #PANDEMIC summit at #UN - and of course #WHA @WHO - add all the ongoing processes and meetings and #exhaustion is programmed. »

Nina Schwalbe

"Health for all means health for ALL? Seems not! WHO and FIFA remain silent on a #WorldcupQatar2022 Ambassador calling homosexuality "damage in the mind" is "harmful and unacceptable", When will it be time to "walk the talk" on LGBTQIA+ right to health? »

Gabby Stern (WHO Communications) swiftly replied:

« @WHO 's position is very clear: All people should be treated equally with dignity and respect. We condemn any slurs about people based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. #HealthForAll is a fundamental human right. »

Peter Kalmus

« I don't think there should be any temperature target. People are already dying and the fossil fuel industry has already caused severe, irreversible damage. I think the goal should be to end the fossil fuel industry in the Global North by 2030 or faster, on a binding schedule.»