

IHP news 784 : “The real story”

(5 July 2024)

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 the summer holidays have started in my country (*well, not yet for me* 😊), this intro will be slightly different, for once. I'll zoom in on a phrase that has gained momentum in recent months, it seems.

The rationale for doing so: soon after **Joe Biden's rather disastrous debate performance** last week, when all kinds of pundits in media and elsewhere were falling over each other to say it was high time for Joe to step aside, a few people argued on social and in [mainstream media](#), ‘...but **the real story is...**’ (*then adding a line on the Donald and why he should actually be the first one to make way*). While I happen to agree on both accounts, I don't really want to go here into the US presidential election conundrum (*even if it also has major global ramifications, unfortunately*). I'd rather want to explore a bit why we see this phrase - ‘but **the real story is...**’ (sometimes also: ‘but **the main story is...**’) - pop up far more than before. Well, at least it feels like that. Eg. lately climate activists have labelled media focus on the European football championships excessive (“*while the real story is...*”). Over the past 8-9 months with respect to the horror in Gaza, both sides have been providing their own version of ‘the real story is...’ (*though, yes, they surely weren't equally convincing...*). Finally, of course, these days after every election you have as many ‘real stories’ “explaining” the election outcomes (*#electionsplaining*) as voters, it seems 😊.

True, **criticism on how the mainstream media work, their focus & biases, is anything but new**. But somehow, **the battle over ‘the real story’ seems fiercer than ever now**, as Northern-based mainstream media are rapidly losing their dominance, Global Southern media and voices increasingly provide an alternative (*while also coming with their own lenses and biases*), [distrust between Global North and South is at an all-time low](#) (*for good reason*), and social media keep pushing 24 hours a day on mainstream media (*sadly, often also with conspiracy theories and algorithms that reward not exactly the most nuanced views*). And all that egged on, on many sides, by a **sense of extreme urgency**, given the potential of massive disruption (or worse) **if we don't act upon this ‘real story’ in time**.

Personally, as I get older, I know less and less what the ‘real story’ is (*don't think it's due to brain fog, and neither is it “jetlag”* 😊). But I do know this: that as human beings, we have to fight for humanity, at the respective levels (micro, meso, macro, ...) we find ourselves involved in, and in the domains where we can. As before you know it, humanity is gone. In an era of polycrisis, even more so, it appears.

As **Timothy Snyder** argues, pointing to blueprints in Russia and Hungary: “ [In the 20th century dictators came to power through violence and arms. In the 21st century the battle happens at mental and cognitive level](#)”. I agree with him that fight is key. Yet, it will become easier if something

substantial is also done about the root causes of the rise of the far right. For example, in the words of **Magdalena Sepúlveda** (*member of Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT)*), in a new op-ed: “ [Tax On Billionaires: A Political Vaccine Against The Extreme Right](#). “

PS: Part of ‘the real story’ also seems to be: **keep in mind future generations**. Though I’m not sure I would go as far as **Roman Krznaric (and his partner Kate Raworth)** who mentioned in a [tweet](#) earlier this week, “ *Humanity has colonised the future, dumping ecological and tech risk on future generations who have no political voice. **That’s why my partner and I are giving our votes in Thursday’s UK general election to our 15-year-old twins. #givethekidsyourvote.***”

After all, teenagers typically want to annoy their parents at that age, so the twins might very well have decided to vote for Reform UK on Thursday 😊.

Maybe one day we’ll find out what the ‘real story’ was in the Krznaric-Raworth family on July 4th !

Enjoy your reading.

Kristof Decoster

Featured Article

Fostering the SDGs through Health in the United Arab Emirates

Filipe Duarte & Immanuel Azaad Moonesar

Six years are left to meet the [United Nations \(UN\) Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), a ringing bell for the upcoming [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#), taking place at the UN Headquarters, in New York, from 8 to 17 July 2024.

In the most recent [Sustainable Development Report 2024](#) by the [UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#), the United Arab Emirates (UAE) ranks [70th](#) out of 166 countries globally. Quite an improvement since the release of the [2023 report](#) when it ranked 79th globally.

As a reminder, in case it’s necessary: the SDGs comprise 17 goals and 169 targets to be met by 2030. Well, at least in an ideal world. Health is deeply embedded in them: [Goal 3](#), ‘Good Health and Wellbeing’ (aka the ‘health SDG’), places health at the centre of other SDGs. This means that the realization of SDG 3 often depends on progress of the other SDGs. Goal 3 features [13 targets](#) in total, each measured by one or a few indicators. Target 3.8 (Universal Health Coverage) is sometimes seen as the ‘umbrella’ target for SDG 3, and rightly so.

The “health-related SDGs” point out a larger group of targets and indicators, however. They refer both to [SDG 3](#) (see above), but also to a number of targets and indicators under other SDGs that

have an impact on health (eg: poverty reduction (SDG1), food security (SDG2), quality education (SDG4), gender equality (SDG5), clean water and sanitation (SDG6), ...). As mentioned above, virtually all SDGs have a link with health, one way or another.

By the way, the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) also monitors health and health-related indicators for the SDGs. The [World health statistics 2024: monitoring health for the SDGs, sustainable development goals](#) offers a detailed review of more than 50 health-related indicators from the SDGs and WHO's Thirteenth General Programme of Work (GPW13). And just last week, as usual in the run-up to a HLPF, [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2024](#) was [released](#), the official UN annual report on the SDGs. This report is also known as "the annual SDG report card".

The UAE's recent track record on SDG 3

Below we focus mostly on the health SDG3 indicators listed in the Sustainable Development Report 2024, mentioned above (i.e. the one in which the UAE ranked 70th).

According to the [2024 report](#) (see pages 448 and 449), the overall status of SDG 3 for the UAE is 'moderately improving'. Nevertheless, challenges remain. One of the more concerning Goal 3 indicators in the report is 'life expectancy at birth' with 78.71 years (based on 2021 data); in the [2023 report](#), life expectancy at birth was 76.1 years (based on the year 2019). To put this indicator into perspective, the long-term objective for this indicator is 83 years. So, there's been some progress, even if the 2024 report classifies this indicator as 'stagnating'. With a bit of luck, the pace of improvement might even suffice to get to 83 years by 2030. But that's easier said than done.

Other areas also need additional attention and enhancement. Diabetes is (too) common in those aged 20 to 79. Diabetes is a worry in the UAE, but also in the wider Arab area.

On the bright side, the (umbrella) indicator 'universal health coverage (UHC) index of service coverage' is on track. In the 2024 report, the UAE scored 82.00 on this indicator (as compared to 78.00 in the 2023 report). Steady progress, in other words.

So, while challenges remain, the jump in the 2024 report (and progress on most of the SDG3 indicators) shows the UAE is largely on the right track. Nevertheless, addressing health-related concerns including diabetes prevalence, and further enhancing UHC should be a top focus. This may necessitate a more comprehensive approach involving promoting healthy lifestyles, enhancing access to healthcare services, and allocating resources to research and development for preventative and treatment techniques.

The broader SDG & planetary health picture in the polycrisis era

As mentioned in the [press release](#) of the latest SDG 2024 report, the UAE were among the countries that have made more than average progress towards reaching the SDGs, including on health and wellbeing. Several national strategies and programs have boosted the nation's improvement in recent years, including the UAE's [VISION 2021](#) and [Green Agenda - 2030](#), which emphasize sustainable development and environmental conservation. Nevertheless, there is still quite a journey to go, as the 70th position also reflects.

The UAE and other nations in the region can contribute to a more sustainable and resilient future by prioritizing sustainable development, executing comprehensive strategies, and enhancing stakeholder engagement. More in general, the world needs to redouble its efforts towards reaching the SDGs. Health-related SDGs still represent our best shot towards 'Health for All' in the polycrisis era.

Speaking of which, as some of you may know, recently the UAE got a 'planetary (ill-) health' warning. Let's hope the catastrophic flooding of April 2024 on the Arabian Peninsula that affected the UAE (as well as Oman and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia) will represent a turning point for the country and broader region to pursue even more vigorously the health-related SDG targets and SDG agenda in general.

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Highlights of the week

SDGs & upcoming High-Level Political Forum (8-17 July)

UN News – World getting a 'failing grade' on Global Goals report card

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/06/1151606>

"With just six years remaining to reach the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), global progress is alarmingly insufficient, with a mere **17 per cent of the targets currently on track, according to a new UN report** released on Friday."

"The [2024 Sustainable Development Goals Report](#) highlighted that nearly half the 17 targets are showing minimal or moderate progress, while **over a one-third are stalled or going in reverse, since they were adopted** by UN Member States back in 2015 to bring peace and prosperity for people and the planet. ..."

"This report is known as the **annual SDG report card** and it shows the **world is getting a failing grade,**" UN [Secretary-General António Guterres](#) said at the [press conference to launch](#) the comprehensive stocktake...."

PS: " **The report outlined key priorities to address the deficit.** Foremost, it highlighted the need for **financing for development.** The SDG investment gap in developing countries is \$4 trillion per year. It is crucial to rapidly increase funding and fiscal space, as well as reform the global financial system to unlock funding. **Resolving conflicts** through dialogue and diplomacy is equally crucial. With nearly 120 million forcibly displaced people by May 2024 and a 72 per cent increase in civilian casualties between 2022 and 2023, the need for peace is more pressing than ever. In parallel,

a **surge in implementation** is desperately needed. Massive investments and effective partnerships are vital to drive transitions in key areas such as food, energy, social protection, and digital connectivity.....”

PS: “The **report comes ahead of the [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#), taking place at the UN Headquarters, in **New York, from 8 to 17 July.....**”**

- See also IISD for some coverage of this report - [UN Stats Report Translates 2023 SDG Summit Declaration into Action](#)

“The report **identifies the Summit of the Future in September** as a **pivotal moment** in “getting the world back on track to achieving the SDGs”.”

- Related: IISD - [Briefing Previews HLPF 2024, Linkages with Summit of the Future](#)

Global Health Governance

Lancet World Report – Furore as MSF plans to replace Access Campaign

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01391-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01391-6/fulltext)

One of the must-reads of the week. “**Natalie Roberts, Executive Director of MSF UK, has defended the changes following a series of criticisms.** Talha Burki reports.”

“**Natalie Roberts, Executive Director of MSF UK, told *The Lancet* that the signatories to the open letter were working with incomplete information, given that MSF has not yet detailed its plans.** “The letter is based on a misunderstanding and on the idea of change being uncomfortable”, she said. Roberts, who was speaking to *The Lancet* from the MSF annual International General Assembly, added that the **contents of the letter did not reflect MSF's vision for a more expansive, patient-centred way of operating.** “

“**The decision to replace the Access Campaign follows a lengthy consultation period across the MSF movement.** “In the last decade or so, we have seen recurrent crises within the Access Campaign team, changeovers of leadership, and a lack of clarity or vision over what we were trying to achieve together”, said Roberts. The consultation was intended to help figure out whether it still made sense to run the Access Campaign in its current form. “What came out, very strongly, was that the **Access Campaign, which was started as a temporary project within the International Office 25 years ago, has grown into an institution without the governance of an institution.** An institution within an institution. There is not really ownership or leadership”, explained Roberts. “There is no mention of that work in our foundational documents.”

“The **structure that will take over from the Access Campaign will be rooted in MSF's humanitarian efforts, with five regional offices on four continents overseeing operations.** “We want to be closer to the patients and populations that we are trying to assist”...”

PS: **“Roberts denied that MSF planned to retreat into neutrality. “We want to ensure that we are political about issues that we can legitimately be political about. It is not about trying to change the global pharmaceutical industry. We do not have the legitimacy to talk about that—we are a medical humanitarian organisation.” ...”**

It’s clear that not everybody is buying this, including within MSF itself.

The Report also features the views of the man with the most beautiful name in global health, **Tido von Schoen-Angerer, Ellen ‘t Hoen** and others.

Lancet Review - Germany's role in global health at a critical juncture

C Franz, I Kickbusch et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)00936-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)00936-X/fulltext)

“In 2017, we set out—along with a larger group of authors—to assess Germany's contribution and potential leadership role in global health. We considered the ambitions and manifold efforts of Chancellor Angela Merkel's administration to become a trusted leader in global health governance and a reliable supporter of multilateral institutions, especially WHO. Based on the recommendations of our 2017 paper, in this Review we determine whether the country has indeed lived up to its vision and ambitions expressed in the Global Health Strategy adopted by the cabinet in 2020. Also, we outline what challenges Germany is now facing in a more complex global health environment and geopolitical situation, where leadership in the field is being redefined following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and amid broader shifts in the international order.”

WSJ - Behind Davos, Claims of a Toxic Workplace

https://www.wsj.com/business/world-economic-forum-klaus-schwab-discrimination-harassment-de285594?reflink=share_mobilewebshare

(gated) **“Despite its lofty goals, the World Economic Forum has faced numerous accusations of sexual harassment and discrimination against women and Black people.”**

HPW - When the South ‘Swings’ Together on Health Equity New Possibilities Emerge

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/when-the-south-swings-together-new-possibilities-emerge/>

“As Caribbean government leaders convene this week at a [CARICOM summit in Grenada](#), one item on their agenda will be a new initiative to deepen South-South partnerships to meet shared global health challenges.”

“... At a high-powered dinner on the sidelines of the recent World Health Assembly, health ministers and high level officials from Africa and the Americas, set out a shared vision for a way forward on closer collaboration between the two regions under the umbrella of a new South-South

partnership initiative, [known as HeDPAC](#). The initiative grew out of an initial set of pandemic-era collaborations between Africa and the Caribbean and was **incubated at WHO** [until its launch as an independent non-profit in December 2023](#).”

“... **The overarching aim**, says HeDPAC CEO Haileysus Getahun, is to **foster a partnership between countries in the global south around key objectives critical to handling future pandemics, as well as creating more robust health systems today**. With **three priorities: More local R&D, manufacturing of drugs, vaccines and other medical products; Health workforce strengthening, particularly at primary health care levels; Building health system resilience to shocks ranging from climate to supply chain breaks**. “

“... **Registered in Rwanda and Barbados**, the initiative aims to work with heads of state and political leaders but without the bureaucratic handcuffs of a formal intergovernmental organization, Getahun said. **Early champions** included the president of Rwanda, [Paul Kagame](#), [Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley](#) and [President Irfaan Ali of Guyana](#)”

“... **CARICOM and HeDPAC are currently engaged in the development an MOU** to address the three priority areas of: health workforce, health system resilience and local manufacturing of medical products. ...”

“The **discussions on collaboration will continue at the 47th CARICOM Conference of Heads of Government, 3-5 July in Grenada**. while the first priority is fostering cooperation between like-minded African nations and the Caribbean, that mandate could eventually extend to promoting South-South collaborations more broadly, Getahun suggests. “We believe **Africa-Caribbean partnership is the starting point, but we are also drawing interest from countries in other regions**.” “

IDS Opinion - International development priorities for a new UK government

Peter Taylor; <https://www.ids.ac.uk/opinions/international-development-priorities-for-a-new-uk-government/>

“**The UK electorate will cast their vote on the 4 July and soon after a new government will be formed and a new parliament will begin**. Inevitably, there will be a full in-tray of domestic issues to address, including the cost-of-living crisis and the green energy transition – many of which are increasingly interconnected with issues of international policy. Climate change, hunger and food insecurity, global health, and conflict and humanitarian assistance – not least the humanitarian crises in Gaza and Sudan –are all **pressing international development issues** that have an impact on the UK, and UK government, in various ways. **To help address them, we believe a new government should attend to the following priorities for international development.....”**

With 7 of them (and they all seems to make sense, not just for the UK by the way).

Bond (blog) - Ambitious vision: how does the UK rebuild its reputation as a global health champion?

C Boyle; <https://www.bond.org.uk/news/2024/07/ambitious-vision-how-does-the-uk-rebuild-its-reputation-as-a-global-health-champion/>

“Action for Global Health’s Stocktake Review is a blueprint through which the UK government can regain its position as champion of global health. In its first 100 days, the new government can seize the initiative by implementing the report’s recommendations and building a more equitable future. ... **These recommendations include: Promote an ambitious vision for achieving universal health coverage (UHC). Appoint a Special Envoy for Universal Health Coverage to ensure that groups that have been marginalised have access to health services. Increase support to national strategies advancing UHC, ensuring they are reaching the furthest behind first.....”**

New Internationalist -UK Foreign Policy needs more than ‘progressive realisme’

Nick Dearden; <https://newint.org/democracy/2024/uk-foreign-policy-needs-more-progressive-realism>

“Distrust from the Global South is at an all-time high. Nick Dearden asks whether a new British government can redress it.”

“... to bridge the chasm, any new government will have to adopt a far more transformational international policy than has yet been contemplated....”. Nick Dearden says what this should involve.

Global Policy - “Health Is at the Heart of Social Justice”: Priorities for Global Health Governance

Tine Hanrieder; <https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/04/07/2024/health-heart-social-justice-priorities-global-health-governance>

“As global health crises compound, the current lack of progress on health equity and other pressing issues will have grim consequences. But there are steps policymakers can take to turn the tide, says expert Tine Hanrieder.” Among others, focusing on **what’s currently on the agenda in global health governance; and the main priorities for the next 12 months**. Re latter: certainly also HRH, she argues.

Global Health Financing

FT - Warren Buffett to bequeath vast wealth to new foundation upon death

[FT](#)

“The billionaire investor ends nearly two decades of gifts to the Gates Foundation for a new charity led by his children.”

Last week, **“Warren Buffett confirmed on Friday that he planned to donate the vast majority of his wealth to a new foundation led by his three children when he dies, ending a long history of donating to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.** The billionaire chief executive of Berkshire Hathaway reiterated to The Wall Street Journal that **his children Susie, Howard and Peter Buffett would be the trustees of the new foundation, which will receive one of the largest wealth**

infusions of all time when he passes away. Buffett, who turns 94 in August, disclosed he **held roughly \$130bn of Berkshire stock on Friday. He also made clear that the Gates Foundation would not be a benefactor in his will.** “The Gates Foundation has no money coming after my death,” Buffett said in the interview. **Buffett has given the foundation roughly \$43bn over the past two decades, including a \$4bn donation announced on Friday.** His donations (to the Gates F) were structured so that each year 5 per cent of his Berkshire shares would be gifted to the Gates Foundation, which ensured Buffett would never fully sell out of the company before his death. Buffett also set several conditions to continue the Giving pledge, including that either Bill or Melinda Gates remain alive and active in the foundation, and that his donations allow the foundation to spend at least 5 per cent of its endowment each year.”

“.... **The future foundation that Buffett’s children will run will become one of the biggest philanthropies in the world at its launch, rivalling the Novo Nordisk Foundation at \$108bn as of 2022.** It will immediately **surpass other large charities, including the \$75bn Gates and \$16bn Ford foundations,** giving it the ability to fund billions of dollars of projects annually. **Buffett said he had not charged his children with specific philanthropies to pursue.** Susie and Howard both sit on the Berkshire board.....”

Politico - Biden administration plans major cuts to AIDS relief programs in Africa

<https://www.politico.com/news/2024/07/02/biden-administration-cut-aids-relief-africa-00166298>

“The **Biden administration plans to cut funding by more than 6 percent** in fiscal 2025 from the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief....”

“....The **reductions in programs for key populations** — which include men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs, prison inmates, sex workers and transgender people — range from 3 percent in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to 29 percent in Burundi, according to preliminary figures seen by POLITICO.....”

- Related: Devex – [What a PEPFAR funding cut could mean for the HIV response in Botswana](#)

“A cut in funding could be **particularly consequential for community-based programs that support key populations.** In Botswana, these programs are dependent on PEPFAR and Global Fund support.”

Devex Pro - USAID health spending plans

<https://www.devex.com/news/devex-checkup-how-latin-american-countries-are-battling-obesity-107894>

(gated) “The world’s largest bilateral aid donor [plans to spend \\$23.3 billion in the coming months](#), and **health has some of the biggest allocations.** This includes **four contracts worth \$350 million in the Democratic Republic of Congo** to strengthen primary health care, support value chain and market linkages, integrate health service delivery, and strengthen local capacity....”

The Conversation - The IMF is failing countries like Kenya: why, and what can be done about it

D Bradlow; <https://theconversation.com/the-imf-is-failing-countries-like-kenya-why-and-what-can-be-done-about-it-233825>

Interesting analysis.

“The IMF has provided financial support to Kenya. But the financing is subject to tough conditions which suggest that debt obligations matter more than the needs of long-suffering citizens. This is despite the IMF claiming that its mandate now includes helping states deal with issues like climate, digitalisation, gender, governance and inequality. **Unfortunately, Kenya is not an isolated case. Twenty-one African countries are receiving IMF support. In Africa, debt service, on average, exceeds the combined amounts governments are spending on health, education, climate and social services.**”

“The tough conditions attached to IMF financing have led the citizens of Kenya and other African countries to conclude that a too powerful IMF is the cause of their problems. However, my research into the law, politics and history of the international financial institutions suggests the opposite: **the real problem is the IMF’s decline in authority and efficacy. Some history will help explain this and indicate a partial solution....**”

- Related: The Collective blog – [Austerity: A neglected ‘pandemic’?](#)

“**How have the International Monetary Fund's austerity measures impacted health systems?** Collective member **Ramya Kumar** takes a closer look at the case of **Sri Lanka**.”

She concludes: “**...Sri Lanka is a case in point. However, the austerity ‘pandemic’ is spreading across the world, with people in many countries, including Ghana, Zambia and, most recently, Kenya, experiencing its dire consequences.** Time is now for the global health community to call for accountability on the part of powerful transnational actors like the IMF and commercial creditors, who lend poorly, and then support/compel governments to implement policies that have drastic consequences for people’s health.”

Bretton Woods Project - ‘Worst ever’ debt crisis puts IDA’s financial model at risk, underscoring need for ambitious donor contributions to IDA21 replenishment

<https://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2024/07/worst-ever-debt-crisis-puts-idas-financial-model-at-risk-underscoring-need-for-ambitious-donor-contributions-to-ida21-replenishment/>

“**Debt crisis is likely to overwhelm IDA’s funding model**, leaving the association with no choice but to reduce critical grant-based support for low-income countries or erode its equity base; Record-breaking capital contributions are needed to prevent a deterioration in IDA's finances in the face of worsening global conditions.”

Pandemic Accord

As a reminder: INB meetings resume on 16-17 July.

HPW -Pandemic Agreement Talks Extended: One More Year to Resolve Critical Issues

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/pandemic-agreement-talks-extended-one-more-year-to-resolve-critical-issues/>

Excellent read to bring you up to speed again on the **next INB iteration** (talks are resuming on 16-17 July).

“Following the 77th World Health Assembly (WHA)’s endorsement of a delay of up to one year for finalizing a pandemic agreement, **the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) is set to resume talks on 16-17 July 2024**. INB member states will face contentious procedural issues and thorny debates over the resolution of substantive matters including **a system for Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS), One Health; and a formula assuring more equitable access to pandemic health products**, where wide gaps remain.”

“Debate around these outstanding issues is a **focus of this latest issue of the [Governing Pandemics Snapshot](#)**. The issue, produced by the Global Health Centre at the Geneva Graduate Institute, also unpacks the WHA-approved amendments to the International Health Regulations and their meaning. “

For the **full snapshot**, see <https://www.governingpandemics.org/gp-snapshot>

Also includes: **Whither access to health products in the amended IHR and draft Pandemic Agreement? (by Suerie Moon)** among others.

BMJ GH (Commentary) - Sustainability in the pandemic accord

Owen Schaefer et al; <https://gh.bmj.com/content/9/6/e015458>

“... This latest version of the proposal was prepared for the ninth meeting of the International Negotiating Body (April and May 2024) for further deliberation and refinement. Here, we will focus on one observation: the **absence of explicit acknowledgement of the central importance of sustainability**.”

“Sustainability is mentioned more times in the treaty text than any other principle except for equity, yet it is given no official definition or status. The treaty exhorts sustainability in health systems, production of pandemic-related products, research and development investments, financing of pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, as well as funding of the accord itself. We agree that sustainability is key to the accord. However, the **parties must be more explicit in identifying it as a guiding principle, defining it and demonstrating how it is used to inform and/or justify certain provisions**.”

More on PPPR

Cidrap News - New roadmap addresses Lassa fever, a growing threat to human health

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/lassa/new-roadmap-addresses-lassa-fever-growing-threat-human-health>

“Today stakeholders published an **updated roadmap** for research and development for medical countermeasures aimed at fighting Lassa fever. Roadmap authors said the virus is at a tipping point toward swift progress in terms of therapeutics and diagnostics, with a vaccine on the horizon.”

“Lassa virus causes about 100,000 to 300,000 infections annually, including 5,000 to 10,000 deaths, mostly in West Africa. The virus is endemic in Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, and other countries in the region are at risk of human Lassa fever cases and outbreaks. Travel-related cases have been reported around the world, and climate change threatens to create more endemic regions in Africa.”

“... **The roadmap focuses on four main areas:** cross-cutting issues, diagnostics, therapeutics, and vaccines.”

- Link: **Lancet Infectious Diseases** – [Lassa fever research priorities: towards effective medical countermeasures by the end of the decade](#)

Cidrap News – Nipah virus roadmap offers 'way to move the ball forward' on drugs, vaccines, tests

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/nipah-virus-roadmap-offers-way-move-ball-forward-drugs-vaccines-tests>

“... In 2023 the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP), at the University of Minnesota, with funding from the Wellcome Trust, engaged an expert working group for NiV to update the 2019 version of the research and development roadmap. The updates reflect recent literature and consensus opinion of the experts. The **updated 2024 roadmap** was published yesterday.”

“... As of today, there are no vaccines or other medical countermeasures, including diagnostics, for NiV. The roadmap focuses on research and development for those tools, as well as establishing more rapid, point-of-care diagnostic tests for the virus. The small size of outbreaks makes establishing phase 3 clinical trials for treatments or vaccines a challenge, the authors said, so the roadmap's emphasis on specific action steps are doubly needed. **The roadmap focuses on diagnostics therapeutics, and vaccines, with the goal of effective and available NiV medical countermeasures by 2030....”**

- Related: [Lancet Infectious Diseases – Measures to prevent and treat Nipah virus disease: research priorities for 2024–29](#)

Bird flu

Reuters - Scientists wary of bird flu pandemic 'unfolding in slow motion'

[Reuters](#);

“Scientists tracking the spread of bird flu are increasingly concerned that gaps in surveillance may keep them several steps behind a new pandemic, according to Reuters interviews with more than a dozen leading disease experts.”

“... "It almost seems like a pandemic unfolding in slow motion," said Scott Hensley, a professor of microbiology at the University of Pennsylvania. **"Right now, the threat is pretty low ... but that could change in a heartbeat."”** **“The earlier the warning of a jump to humans, the sooner global health officials can take steps to protect people by launching vaccine development, wide-scale testing and containment measures.....”**

“... Several experts said differing approaches from animal and human health agencies could hamper a quicker response. **“If you were designing the system from scratch, you would have one agency,"** said Gigi Gronvall, a biosecurity expert at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security. **"This is not the only example where we have environmental or animal problems that cause human problems.” ...”**

“... The World Health Organization says H5N1's risk to humans is low because there is no evidence of human transmission. Some tools are available if that changes, including limited amounts of existing H5N1 vaccine and antiviral medications like Tamiflu. There are mechanisms to launch larger-scale production of tests, treatments and vaccines, if needed, said the U.N. agency's head of flu, Wenqing Zhang.”

“Other experts said there is sufficient concern to start preparing for potential spread in humans, although triggers for taking action differ depending on the role played in the response, said Richard Hatchett, chief executive of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). His organization acted early on funding COVID vaccine development, and is now in talks with research partners about H5N1. CEPI aims to create a library of prototype vaccines for pathogens with pandemic potential.....”

PS: **“... Expanding vaccine access is also complex, said the WHO's Zhang. Manufacturers of potential pandemic flu vaccines make seasonal flu shots and cannot produce both at once, she said.** Since most flu vaccines are made using virus grown in eggs, it could take up to six months to produce pandemic shots. **The U.S. is in talks with Moderna to use their faster mRNA technology for pandemic flu shots.”**

“The experts all acknowledged a need to balance acting quickly to avert a threat versus overreacting.”

Science News - Is 'cow flu' here to stay? Three months after it emerged, fears are growing

<https://www.science.org/content/article/cow-flu-here-stay-three-months-after-it-emerged-fears-are-growing>

"Feeble U.S. government response and limited cooperation from the dairy industry have complicated elimination."

Reuters - US awards Moderna \$176 million to produce bird flu vaccine

[Reuters](#);

"The U.S. government has awarded \$176 million to Moderna to advance development of its bird flu vaccine, the company said on Tuesday, as concerns rise over a multi-state outbreak of H5N1 virus in dairy cows and infections of three dairy workers since March. **The funds from the U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority** will be used to complete late-stage development and testing of a pre-pandemic mRNA-based vaccine against H5N1 avian influenza, the company said in a statement....."

See also Stat - [Moderna receives \\$176 million from BARDA for mRNA influenza vaccines.](#)

AMR

Cidrap News – WHO launches effort to boost global diagnostic capacity

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/antimicrobial-stewardship/who-launches-effort-boost-global-diagnostic-capacity>

"The World Health Organization (WHO) last week launched an effort to strengthen global diagnostic capacity and support access to safe, affordable, and quality-assured diagnostics."

"In a **policy brief**, the WHO said **the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Diagnostic Initiative** aims to **"bring diagnostics to the forefront"** of the global response to antimicrobial resistance, help countries strengthen microbiology laboratory capacity, support antimicrobial stewardship and infection prevention and control, enhance routine surveillance, and achieve equitable access to quality testing for common bacterial and fungal pathogens and associated AMR."

"The initiative was developed by the WHO to help World Health Assembly member states address commitments made in 2023 to strengthen diagnostic capacity. The agency notes that for nearly half the global population, access to reliable and timely laboratory test results is severely limited, with only 1% to 2% of clinical laboratories in sub-Saharan countries undertaking bacteriology testing. Mycology testing is even more limited."

With 4 building blocks.

Global Tax Justice & Health

Investigate Europe - Pharma firms stash profits in Europe's tax havens as patients struggle with drug prices

<https://www.investigate-europe.eu/posts/deadly-prices-pharma-firms-stash-profits-in-europes-tax-havens-as-patients-struggle-with-drug-prices>

“Investigate Europe finds 15 of the world’s biggest drugmakers operate more than 1,300 subsidiaries in low-tax territories. These structures helped them amass €580 billion in profits in the past five years. Meanwhile, patients face life-threatening delays for medicines due to high drug prices.”

“... Investigate Europe can reveal that the 15 largest European and US drugmakers, including BMS, publicly disclose over 1,300 subsidiaries in tax havens and low-tax territories. These jurisdictions offer corporations low taxes or ways to shift profits (sometimes both). In Europe, researchers and activists generally agree that they include Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Luxembourg. They are among the top five profit-shifting destinations globally, according to this year’s EU Tax Observatory report, an EU-funded think-tank. The little-known structures in tax-friendly destinations have helped the 15 pharmaceutical firms amass profits of €580 billion in the last five years. “

“... Over the five years analysed, the 15 multinationals made €580 billion after tax, while dedicating €572 billion to R&D. The gains were mostly allotted to shareholders in dividends and stock buybacks for a total €558 billion. As a result, the following groups shelled out more on rewarding investors than on R&D: Abbvie, Johnson & Johnson, Novartis, BMS, Pfizer, Novo Nordisk and Amgen. Other firms, including AstraZeneca, Merck and Bayer, did invest more in R&D than they made profits or paid shareholders....”

Eurodad - UN Tax Convention – joint submission by over 200 organisations and trade unions in response to the first draft negotiating text

[Eurodad](#)

“Under the umbrella of the **Global Alliance for Tax Justice (GATJ)**, over 200 civil society organisations and trade unions have sent a joint submission to the UN, responding to the **Zero Draft Terms of Reference for a new UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation**, which was published on 7 June....”

With a summary of this joint submission.

Tax On Billionaires: A Political Vaccine Against The Extreme Right

<https://menafn.com/1108397145/Opinion-Tax-On-Billionaires-A-Political-Vaccine-Against-The-Extreme-Right>

By **Dr. Magdalena Sepúlveda** - Executive Director of the Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (GI-ESCR). She is also a member of the **Independent Commission for the Reform of**

International Corporate Taxation (ICRICT). She was the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights.

PS: also some gentle advice for ongoing Replenishment campaigners...

NCDs

UN News - Buckle up, make a safety statement: UN launches global campaign to enhance road safety

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1151671>

“The United Nations on Monday launched a new global road safety campaign to improve traffic safety and create inclusive, safe and sustainable streets. Under the motto [#MakeASafetyStatement](#), the campaign will also amplify the core messages of the New Decade of Action for Road Safety, which aims to halve the number of road-related victims by 2030. ... Starting in New York, **the campaign will run through 2025, reaching approximately 1,000 cities in more than 80 countries through billboards, social media and other platforms.”**

“... At a press briefing at UN Headquarters in New York, Jean Todt (UN special envoy for road safety) highlighted that road accidents are the “number one killer” for individuals aged 5 to 29, with the vast majority in low- and middle-income countries. He noted that each year, 1.2 million people die on the road, and a further 40 to 50 million are injured, many seriously....”

Lancet Comment - Non-communicable diseases: can implementation research change the game for policy and practice?

Kumanan Rasanathan et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01309-6/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01309-6/abstract)

“NCD service delivery remains a crucial gap undermining efforts towards universal health coverage, which increases inequities in health, poverty, and economic losses. Implementation research is a crucial tool to bridge the know–do gap, focusing on understanding the adoption, integration, and sustainability of evidencebased interventions within real-world health systems.... By uncovering why NCD interventions are not being implemented and testing solutions to overcome barriers, implementation research can support the effective scale-up of interventions.... **Yet, despite its proven potential for impact, implementation research remains underutilised and underfunded, especially in the area of NCDs....”**

After making their case, authors conclude: **“In conclusion, aligning interests, innovating on methods, mobilising sustainable funding, and building institutions can support implementation research as a systematic practice in service delivery and policy implementation, to accelerate coverage of NCD interventions and the introduction of current innovations. The upcoming Fourth High-level Meeting of the UN General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of NCDs in 2025**

provides a key opportunity to anchor implementation research as a crucial tool to translate political commitments into policy and implementation worldwide.”

Lancet Comment - The CONCORD–Lancet Global Commission on Cancer

C Allemani et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01345-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01345-X/fulltext)

« ...The public health challenge from cancer is larger than from COVID-19, and it will be far longer-term. The global public health response to cancer should be commensurately ambitious. ...”

PS: « **CONCORD** is an ambitious research programme for the long-term surveillance of cancer survival worldwide. It has been developed since 2000 to inform regional, national, and global policy for cancer control. The CONCORD programme's cancer survival estimates are now the de facto standard for global survival comparisons, as a metric of health systems performance, cancer policy, and improvement in outcomes. »

« **The CONCORD–Lancet Global Commission on Cancer** aims to illustrate the value of long-term, global, collaborative science for effective policy making, and how population-based cancer registries can continue to provide actionable evidence for shaping cancer control strategy in different settings. In collaboration with scientists, cancer survivors, and policy makers, **this Commission will show how appropriate interpretation of epidemiological indicators such as cancer incidence and survival, estimated with real-world data from population-based cancer registries, can provide timely evidence for action. The Commission will suggest how the value of cancer registries and public understanding of their role in cancer control can be improved.....”**

Check out of the aims of the Commission (cfr panel).

PS: “Cancer should have been considered separately from the other three groups of NCDs in the SDGs....” (they argue).

Commercial determinants of health

Guardian – Tobacco giant accused of ‘manipulating science’ to attract non-smokers

[Guardian](#);

“Leaked documents from Philip Morris reveal ‘secret’ strategy to market its heated tobacco product IQOS.”

“The tobacco company [Philip Morris International](#) has been accused of “manipulating science for profit” through funding research and advocacy work with scientists. [Campaigners say that leaked documents from PMI](#) and its Japanese affiliate also reveal plans to target politicians, doctors and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics as part of the multinational’s marketing strategy to attract non-smokers to its heated tobacco product, IQOS. Japan is a launch market for IQOS, and [Stopping Tobacco](#)

[Organisations and Products](#) (Stop), a tobacco industry watchdog, said it **suspected PMI would apply the blueprint elsewhere.**”

“A [paper from researchers](#) at the Tobacco Control Research Group at the University of Bath said that Philip Morris Japan (PMJ), funded a Kyoto University study into smoking cessation via a third-party research organisation.....”

Devex - Can warning labels help to guide consumers and counter obesity?

<https://www.devex.com/news/can-warning-labels-help-to-guide-consumers-and-counter-obesity-107887>

“Latin America has pioneered the use of warning labels to guide consumers away from foods that are high in sodium or sugar. Now the rest of the world is looking for lessons.”

“...[FOPLs \(front of package labels\) first emerged](#) in the late 1980s, but mandatory labeling with warnings about specific nutrients, such as excess sodium, only started to be implemented in recent years — and primarily in Latin America. [Eight of the 10 countries](#) that require FOPLs with nutrient details are in Latin America, beginning with Chile, where FOPLs went into effect in 2016. Barbosa attributes this, in part, to **the region having “very mature civil society when it comes to NCDs. There are a lot of organizations doing incredible work in this regard.”....**”

Mental Health

Guardian – How a brother’s illness spurred a plan to get mental health on the agenda across Africa

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/article/2024/jul/01/africa-cdc-mental-health-care-drc-psychiatry-who>

Background of this story: Jean Kaseya’s unfortunate brother.

“One of the continent’s leading medics, Jean Kaseya, has made it his mission to help the 116m people in African countries with mental health conditions.”

“... Africa CDC is pushing to integrate mental health care into community health programmes across the continent. In May, it launched a [Mental Health Leadership Programme](#), which will train health professionals at various levels in how to prioritise mental health. Psychiatric drugs are included in the organisation’s list of basic medicines for primary healthcare programmes.”

“... The **World Health Organization estimates there are at least 116 million people in African countries with mental health conditions.** But there are very few services, and [only 1.4 mental health workers](#) for every 100,000 people.....” ...”

Planetary Health

R Smith (blog) - Ivan Illich foresaw permacrisis fifty years ago, not least in “health” care

<https://richardswsmith.wordpress.com/2024/07/01/ivan-illich-foresaw-permacrisis-fifty-years-ago-not-least-in-health-care/>

Lovely blog. Richard Smith comes back on Ivan Illich’s book “**Tools for Conviviality**”. In Tools for Conviviality, Illich presents his core arguments against industrial society. The book also describes our present “permacrisis” as well – according to Smith, better than any contemporary book. Read why.

FT - Google emissions jump nearly 50% over five years as AI use surges

<https://www.ft.com/content/383719aa-df38-4ae3-ab0e-6279a897915e>

“Google’s greenhouse gas emissions have surged 48 per cent in the past five years due to the expansion of its data centres that underpin artificial intelligence systems, leaving its commitment to get to “net zero” by 2030 in doubt. The Silicon Valley company’s pollution amounted to 14.3mn tonnes of carbon equivalent in 2023, a 48 per cent increase from its 2019 baseline and a 13 per cent rise since last year, Google said in its annual environmental report on Tuesday. **Google said the jump highlighted “the challenge of reducing emissions” at the same time as it invests in the build-out of large language models and their associated applications and infrastructure, admitting that “the future environmental impact of AI” was “complex and difficult to predict”**”

WEF (blog) - How health economics is redefining climate-resilient healthcare

C Ashton; <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2024/06/how-health-economics-is-redefining-climate-resilient-healthcare/>

“... **Health economics can help advance sustainable practices and improve healthcare delivery.**”

“... At the forefront of this is the **Office of Health Economics (OHE)**, with the launch of the **Change Initiative**. This global cross-sector non-profit collaboration represents a bold vision: to leverage the insights of economics in developing evidence-based solutions to mitigate the environmental footprint of healthcare.....”

PS: my advice: don’t hold your breath.

HPW - Growing Body of Data Links India’s Polluted Air to Worsening Health

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/growing-body-of-data-links-indias-polluted-air-to-worsening-health/>

“... **A growing body of evidence from India is firmly establishing the country’s toxic levels of air pollution as a leading cause of ill health, particularly non-communicable diseases (NCDs).** The

results are significant because the country's politicians have repeatedly [questioned](#) the validity of research that links air pollution with reducing life expectancy and worsening health. “

“As many as 80 out of the 100 most polluted cities in the world are in India, as *Health Policy Watch* [reported](#) earlier this year, making air pollution a huge health stressor. “ “ **The latest research from India demonstrates how air pollution is worsening [anaemia](#), [hypertension](#), [diabetes](#), [cholesterol levels](#) and [mental health](#), as well as other diseases.....”**

Access to medicines, vaccines & other health technologies

MSF Access (Report) – Secrets Cost Lives: Transparency and Access to Medical Products

<https://msfaccess.org/secrets-cost-lives-transparency-and-access-medical-products>

“... Ensuring access to these medical products requires **access to information throughout their life cycle, from the R&D stages to when they are brought to market**. But this **information has been systematically hidden from public view by the biomedical industry**. “

“**This report looks at 10 areas—seven specific areas in the product development, supply and procurement processes, and three cross-cutting areas—to discuss what information is hidden and how, and its consequences for access**. It makes recommendations to governments, global health institutions, civil society organisations and other actors to better hold corporations to account and foster greater transparency in order to help ensure equitable access to medical products and ultimately save more lives.”

BMJ Rapid Response to ‘Refocusing the World Health Organization’s Model List of Essential Medicines on the needs of low and middle income countries’ (by Wirtz et al)

M Hellamand; <https://www.bmj.com/content/385/bmj-2023-077776/rr>

Rapid Response: “The current relevance of the World Health Organization’s Model List of Essential Medicines. “ Well worth a read.

Lancet World Report - African mpox surges show lack of vaccine access

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01393-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01393-X/fulltext)

“**Experts say that outbreaks in South Africa and DR Congo illustrate the need for more equitable access to mpox vaccines**. Paul Adepoju reports.”

“**Vastly different mpox outbreaks are surging in South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo**. While South Africa battles a high case fatality rate among a specific group, DR Congo faces a

widespread epidemic primarily affecting children. **Experts say that both outbreaks highlight the need for enhanced surveillance and equitable access to vaccines and treatments....”**

Medicines Law & Policy (blog) - World Trade Organization Members Embark on Review of the TRIPS Agreement

Ellen ‘t Hoen; <https://medicineslawandpolicy.org/2024/07/world-trade-organization-members-embark-on-review-of-the-trips-agreement/>

Blog on the upcoming first-ever Article 71.1 review at the @wto of the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement.

“The World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Council will meet on 10-11 July. On the agenda is the review of the implementation of the TRIPS Agreement under TRIPS Article 71.1, as proposed by Colombia. It would be the first time such a review is taking place in the 30 years that the TRIPS Agreement has been in force....”

Socio-Economic review - Countermovements from the core: the assetization of pharmaceuticals, transparency activism and the access to medicines movement

T Bourgeron et al ; <https://academic.oup.com/ser/advance-article/doi/10.1093/ser/mwae039/7685508?login=false>

« The assetization of essential goods brings to high-income countries the logics of scarcity that have been dominant for long in low-to-middle income countries—fostering the rise of new forms of activism. Will this new activism strengthen already existing social movements or weaken them through more moderate politics? Building on interviews and the observation and mapping of activist events, we investigate this question through the case of pharmaceuticals. We detail how the assetization of pharmaceutical drugs has triggered the constitution of a new ‘flank’ in the access to medicines (A2M) movement—pharmaceutical transparency activism. We argue that transparency activism has expanded the contestation of the pharmaceutical state of affairs, by bringing into the broader A2M movement countries that were previously at the core of global pharmaceutical chains. Our article illuminates how the assetization of essential goods creates forms of activism that have significant impact on existing social movements. »

Devex - How countries can ramp up global hepatitis testing

https://www.devex.com/news/how-countries-can-ramp-up-global-hepatitis-testing-107843?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=devex_social_icons

“There are several barriers to scale up testing for hepatitis. But countries such as Egypt and Rwanda have shown that it’s possible.”

Human Resources for Health

CGD (blog) - Sustainable Financing of Community Health Workers: Could Social Health Insurance be the Panacea?

A Adjagba et al; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/sustainable-financing-community-health-workers-could-social-health-insurance-be-panacea>

Authors argue that at least it could be part of the solution.

“... The sustainability of CHW programs is contingent on adequate and stable domestic financing mechanisms that prioritize comprehensive primary health care services. Social Health Insurance (SHI) has emerged as a viable option for boosting domestic financing for health, offering stable funding and equitable access to health care. [SHI systems pool financial resources](#) from the population through the government to fund health care services, including those provided by CHWs. **By integrating CHW services into the broader health care financing framework, SHI schemes can ensure stable and predictable funding, thereby enhancing the sustainability of CHW programs. Moreover, SHI will facilitate the provision of fair compensation and incentives to CHWs, addressing concerns related to low remuneration and insufficient support.”**

Miscellaneous

Guardian - Obsession with growth is enriching elites and killing the planet. We need an economy based on human rights

Olivier De Schutter; [Guardian](#)

“Economic growth allows the few to grow ever-wealthier. Ending poverty and environmental catastrophe demands fresh thinking.” “... the reality – as detailed in a **report to the [United Nations Human Rights Council this month](#)** – shows that while poverty eradication has historically been promised through the “trickling down” or “redistribution” of wealth, economic growth largely “gushes up” to a privileged few....”

De Schutter hence argues for a **human rights based economy**. “A “[human rights economy](#)” can deliver for people and the planet because it shifts our focus from growth to humanity – grounding the purpose of the economy in fundamental, universal human values. It offers human rights as a guardrail to keep the economy on track – meeting the challenges of the climate crisis, addressing inequalities and eradicating poverty.”

The Times (Analysis) - Young, jobless and African: Kenya protests are a warning for the whole continent

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/55dfea5b-1eb9-4c43-ba25-33b5da1f12d1?shareToken=7219830bfa0e13f49ec9a782e3ccc34e>

“Violent protests in Nairobi, military coups in west Africa, mass migration to Europe: all signs that the continent’s unemployment time bomb ticks ever louder.”

“Frustration over this lack of job opportunities was one of the major driving forces behind the riots in Kenya last week over the government’s plans to introduce more taxes — including levies on mobile money transfers and digital products that would have directly affected young people’s online activities — to pay the country’s crippling debts. This is **not an isolated upheaval. Much of Africa faces a major jobs crisis....** ... Research suggests that **Africa needs to create 18 to 30 million jobs annually through to 2030 to meet this challenge. At the moment, the continent is generating only 3 million a year.** Many are wondering if Kenya’s protests could herald the **start of Africa’s long predicted “youth rebellion”**: an Arab Spring-style uprising driven more by economic need than a hunger for democracy.....”

Africa Infodemic Response Alliance (weekly infodemic report): Increase in mis/disinformation and anti-Western sentiment in the Sahel following Global forum on Vaccine

<https://afrocoms.newsweaver.com/1295nfyqhi/ybaf9ctrlrxz4zmu5v3g1ok?lang=en&a=2&p=64498538&t=33521097>

Interesting analysis of some of the antivaxx (and broader) sentiment after the Global Forum on Vaccine in Paris (20 June).

Lancet Perspective – Illness politics and social media mobilisation

L Diedrich ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01312-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01312-6/fulltext)

« **Illness politics has become a key feature of electoral horse-race politics in the USA that focuses on individuals rather than on their specific policies or on structural issues more generally, including inequalities in access to health care or the devastating impact of poverty, violence, and war on health.**”

« ... Yet **alongside these negative framings there are also more progressive ways that illness politics features online to counteract stigma and ableism and increase the participation of sick and disabled people in public life.** These hashtags do not target specific individuals but create networks of care and support among people and their allies across time and space. They draw on their important insights to enact a vision of society oriented around practices of care, justice, and collective liberation. »

« ... I end with this **recent snapshot of illness politics and hashtag activism in action** in the hope of generating further conversations on how illness politics operates in everyday life. **Illness politics is a struggle over the kind of world we want to live in, one that promotes ableism and stigmatises vulnerability or one that prioritises care and collective liberation.** »

Some reports & publications

HPV - With 20 Potential Vaccines to Treat Virus Causing Cervical Cancer, WHO Issues Product Guidelines

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/with-20-potential-vaccines-to-treat-virus-causing-cervical-cancer-who-issues-product-guidelines/>

“While a vaccine exists to prevent human papillomavirus (HPV), the main cause of cervical cancer, **over 20 therapeutic HPV vaccine candidates are currently in development.** These therapeutic vaccines aim to “boost the body’s immune response so that it can either fight and clear high-risk strains of the virus or abnormal ‘precancerous’ cells,” according to the **World Health Organization (WHO).** **The global body issued a report on Wednesday to guide vaccine developers about the preferred product characteristics (PPCs) for any new therapeutic vaccines in priority disease areas – primarily low and middle-income countries (LMICs)."**

“... A therapeutic vaccine “is likely to be especially beneficial for adult women who did not receive the HPV vaccination before contracting the virus and in poorer countries, where millions of women still lack access to effective cervical screening and cancer treatments,” according to WHO....”

“With over 20 therapeutic HPV vaccine candidates currently in development, this new report, **WHO preferred product characteristics for therapeutic HPV vaccines,** calls on developers to ensure they are designed to be used not only in wealthier contexts but also low and middle-income countries, where more than 90% of cervical cancer-related deaths occur....”

PS: “Vaccines in development include candidates from Barinthus Biotherapeutics, TheraVectys and Genticel....”

The first-ever global estimates of economic costs caused by genital herpes infections and their related complications

<https://bmcbglobalpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s44263-024-00053-6>

“The new research, which shows the major economic toll from herpes infections globally, was published in BMC Global and Public Health on 02 July. **Authored by experts from WHO, the University of Utah and various other academic institutions,** the **first-ever global estimates of economic costs caused by genital herpes infections and their related complications** show that every year, these conditions lead to billions of dollars in healthcare expenditures and productivity losses.”

“The paper details associated economic cost estimates for genital herpes globally and by region, and calls for greater investment in the prevention of herpes transmission, including concerted efforts to develop effective vaccines against this common virus.”

'The Big Issue - You can't criminalise your way out of homelessness': UN expert warns of politicians attacking rough sleepers

<https://www.bigissue.com/news/housing/un-criminalise-homelessness-far-right-housing-human-right/>

“UN expert Balakrishnan Rajagopal is telling governments to stop criminalising homelessness. He talks human rights, the housing crisis and the far-right.”

““You can’t criminalise your way out of homelessness. How many people are you going to keep arresting?” This is the message **Balakrishnan Rajagopal, the UN special rapporteur on the right to adequate housing**, will deliver to representatives at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.... **His new study finds growing evidence that people experiencing homelessness and poverty are facing criminal penalties for simply sleeping, washing, cooking, eating, begging and working on the street. The [report](#) was published on Tuesday (25 June) last week. ...”**

“... Rajagopal, a professor in the department of urban studies and planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), **blames resurgent far-right or right-wing governments that have little interest in tackling the root causes of homelessness. “Instead of addressing the global affordable housing and inequality crises, which are primarily responsible, governments are increasingly turning to outdated and vague vagrancy laws, many of which have their roots in colonial rule, to move people off the streets and make them disappear,” he says.... “It’s **an uphill struggle to get countries to recognise economic, social and cultural rights such as the right to housing,**” Rajagopal adds. **“Particularly in hyper capitalist environments.”****

WHO Bulletin theme issue on health systems performance assessment

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/issues/465389/>

Start with the **Editorial section**.

Irene Papanicolas et al. introduce this special theme issue on health system performance assessment. Adèle Sulcas (461–462) reports on health system performance assessment after the COVID-19 pandemic. Githinji Gitahi talks to Gary Humphreys (463–464) about how health system assessment contributes towards achieving universal health coverage.

And then check out **the papers**.

Global health governance & Governance of Health

IMF and World Bank Group Announce Joint Bretton Woods at 80 Initiative

<https://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2024/06/28/pr24250-imf-wbg-announce-joint-bretton-woods-80-initiative>

“In recognition of the 80th anniversary of the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference (the “Bretton Woods Conference”), **the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Group today announced the launch of a consultation tasked with developing a long-term view on the future of the world economy, international cooperation, and the roles of the Bank and the Fund.**”

“The Bank and the Fund are pleased to announce the **formation of a group of external advisors to help guide the exercise**, comprising Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Minister of Finance of Indonesia; Patrick Achi, former Prime Minister of Côte d'Ivoire; and Mark Malloch Brown, former Deputy Secretary-General of the UN. **Working closely with Ajay Banga, President of the World Bank Group, and Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the IMF, the advisors will lead a discussion with global stakeholders on the shape of the world economy 20–30 years from now, on how multilateralism may evolve, and, crucially, on how the Bank and the Fund can best support stability and progress on a livable planet.**”

CGD (blog) - African Priorities for MDB Reform

A Dodd et al; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/african-priorities-mdb-reform>

“In late May, experts from across Africa and globally met in Nairobi on the margins of the African Development Bank Annual Meetings to share their perspectives on how the multilateral development banks (MDBs) should be reformed to better serve the needs of borrowers and other stakeholders from the Global South.....”

Among the themes that emerged: a **more equal partnership**; **Development effectiveness** needs to return as a top agenda item....

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies - A public debate on the future health priorities of the European Union: Outcomes, insights and ideas for action

N Mauer et al ;<https://eurohealthobservatory.who.int/publications/m/a-public-debate-on-the-future-health-priorities-of-the-european-union-outcomes-insights-and-ideas-for-action>

With **key messages** in the short press briefing.

With among them: “... Participants across the board recognise the role of the Commission and of DG SANTE in health and see the new European Parliament and Commission as a critical opportunity to encourage the right health priorities. They want the European Commission to play an ongoing and increasing role in public health and in fostering health leadership.....”

Review of International Political Economy - Excluding through inclusion: managerial practices in the era of multistakeholder governance

Juanita Uribe; <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09692290.2024.2362666?src=exp-la>

“... This article highlights that **managerial practices are also a central driver of political marginalization. ...**”

“Through an **examination of the United Nations Food Systems Summit**, the article shows how, **within multistakeholder models, managerialism sidelines critical voices by invoking ideals of openness, spontaneity, and the absence of rule, rather than traditional principles of ‘command and control’**. Additionally, it unpacks the **novel roles assumed by private consultancy firms**, which are nowadays not only tasked with implementing weighty bureaucratic reforms but are also increasingly involved in ‘optimizing’ political struggles and shaping debates on how societies ought to be governed.”

Development Today - Only Norwegian actors selected by Norad to be ‘strategic partners’

Ann Danaiya Usher ; <https://www.development-today.com/archive/2024/dt-5--2024/seven-norwegian-ngos-selected-in-norads-new-strategic-partnership-arrangement>

“While Sida is upending its decades-old system of strategic partnerships with Swedish civil society organisations, opening it for global competition, Norad appears to be moving in the **opposite direction**, strengthening ties with a select group of strategic actors with a turnover of more than NOK 100 million. In the first round, only Norwegian organisations have made it through the eye of the needle.”

Global health financing

New legislators’ initiative announced at the H20 between UN NCD Task Force and G20&G7 Health and Development Partnership

<https://uniatf.who.int/about-us/news/item/19-06-2024-new-legislators-initiative-announced-at-the-h20-between-un-ncd-task-force-and-g20-g7-health-and-development-partnership>

In case you missed this: “... A bold and exciting **new collaboration was announced on 19 June 2024 at the start of the 2024 H20 meeting in Geneva**, between the [G20&G7 Health and Development Partnership](#) and the UN Inter-Agency Task Force and Health4Life Fund to **catalyze domestic and international multisectoral partnerships and scale up financing to support countries reduce the socioeconomic impact of NCDs and mental health conditions.....”**

UHC & PHC

International Journal for Equity in Health - Neighbourhood effect and inequality in access to essential health services among mother–child paired samples: a decomposition analysis of data from 58 low- and middle-income countries

S Anjorin et al ; <https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-024-02194-4>

“**The percentage of mother–child pairs living in slums ranged from 0.5% in Egypt to 63.7% in Congo** ... Findings from the decomposition analysis showed that, on average, household wealth, neighbourhood education level, access to media, and neighbourhood-level illiteracy contributed mostly to **slum & non-slum inequality gaps in suboptimal access to EHS.**”

“... The study showed evidence of inequality in access to EHS due to neighbourhood effects in 26 LMICs. This evidence suggests that **increased focus on the urban poor** might be important for increasing access to EHS and achieving the universal health coverage (UHC) goals.”

WHO - Handbook for conducting assessments of barriers to effective coverage with health services

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240094765>

“In support of equity-oriented reforms towards universal health coverage.”

Pandemic preparedness & response/ Global Health Security

Health Affairs Forefront - Policy Epidemiology: Identifying What Works In Outbreak Preparedness And Response

R Katz; <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/policy-epidemiology-identifying-works-outbreak-preparedness-and-response>

Related tweet: “In her new Forefront article, Rebecca Katz from @georgetown_ghss discusses **how to improve upon the early COVID-19 response, where public health experts had to extrapolate and design policy recommendations from an insufficient evidence base.**”

Globalization & Health - Intellectual property licensing of therapeutics during the COVID-19 crisis: lessons learnt for pandemic preparedness and response

<https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-024-01057-5>

By T Braimoh et al.

Planetary health

Lancet Planetary Health – July issue

[https://www.thelancet.com/issue/S2542-5196\(24\)X0008-X](https://www.thelancet.com/issue/S2542-5196(24)X0008-X)

- Start with the Editorial – [Political restoration](#)

“... In a political climate dominated by war, economic uncertainty, and other geopolitical tensions, environmental concerns can drop down the political agenda. However, **the adoption of the Nature Restoration Law (NRL) by the European Union Council on 17th June 2024** offers some hope that political agreements that prioritise nature can still progress.....”

Some **other comments & papers** we want to flag (that didn't appear online earlier):

- [Urgent optimism for planetary health: lessons from the video game industry](#)
- [Climate change adaptation for health: using case study systems-based approaches to formulating solutions and guiding policy](#)

“The InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), a global network of 150 academies of science, engineering, and medicine, compiled global evidence in two 2022 reports to show commonalities within the deteriorating health and equity outcomes of climate change, which warrant shared multiagency approaches to identifying and implementing knowledge-based solutions. **In follow-up work, the IAP and Save the Children initiated a call for health adaptation case studies to address the integrated challenges of climate and health within the broad context of the Sustainable Development Goals, the progress of which is currently impaired by climate change. Climate change adaptation needs, as well as capacity to cope with climate impacts,** are unequally distributed around the world, and this heterogeneity in societal adaptive capacity is often overlooked. **This new case studies-based work focuses on underserved groups such as women and children.** A large amount of research literature has been published on the disproportionate mental and physical health burdens on children, but much less information is available on interventions to protect their health. The climate crisis should be regarded as a child rights issue. Initial information on this case studies **project by the IAP and Save the Children is summarised in the panel.....”**

- [The emerging syndemic of climate change and non-communicable diseases](#)

“In this Comment, we explore the synergism between climate change and NCDs and also show how climate change mitigation and adaptation actions can also reduce NCD risks.....”

- PS: HPW also has coverage on one of the articles – see [Even India's 'Cleanest' Cities Have Significant Excess Air Pollution-Related Deaths](#)

Re the following study: [Ambient air pollution and daily mortality in ten cities of India: a causal modelling study](#)

Independent - Nearly 5 billion people lived under extreme temperatures in June, study finds

<https://www.independent.co.uk/climate-change/news/heatwave-june-temperatures-climate-change-b2570608.html>

“Once-in-50-years heatwaves now occur five times more often and are 1.5C warmer.”

“More than 60 per cent of the world's population endured extreme heat driven by the climate crisis over nine days in mid-June, according to a new study. Approximately 5 billion people lived in extreme temperatures that were made at least three times more likely due to the climate crisis. **The study, published by Climate Central,** covered the period from 16 to 24 June.....”

Devex - DFIs warn 'impractical' EU Green Deal rules will harm global south

<https://www.devex.com/news/dfis-warn-impractical-eu-green-deal-rules-will-harm-global-south-107875>

(gated) **“Complex "sustainable finance" regulations** have "not been written for the places where we actually work," according to **European development finance institutions**, arguing that investors will walk away.”

Plos Climate - Preventing heat-related deaths: The urgent need for a global early warning system for heat

Chloe Brimicombe et al; <https://journals.plos.org/climate/article?id=10.1371/journal.pclm.0000437>

“... Many weather hazards such as floods and droughts already have a type of Early Warning System (EWS) or Global Alert System, but **a global heat early warning system currently does not exist. An accurate heat EWS can save lives and can promote heat adaptation across society.** Here, we (1) explore the history of Early Warning Systems as framed using the Disaster Risk Reduction paradigms and (2) identify potential barriers to an integrated Global Heat Early Warning system. Finally, we discuss what we have learned from history and the identified current barriers **and outline a vision of a Global Heat Early Warning system around four key themes, incorporating systems for low-, middle-, and high-income countries and requiring cross-sectoral, cross-government, and interdisciplinary collaboration.**”

Devex - 300 groups launch strategy to transform food systems through agroecology

<https://www.devex.com/news/300-groups-launch-strategy-to-transform-food-systems-through-agroecology-107891>

“Agroecology begins with the premise that today's model of industrial farming is broken. **A new coalition is pushing for major changes.**”

“**A global coalition of governments, U.N. agencies, NGOs, and grassroots groups has devised a new strategy to promote agroecology** — which calls for agricultural models that work in sync with nature, as opposed to industrial farming — **as a means to transform food systems for an era of climate change.**”

“...**Among the nearly 300 members are 48 governments** including major agricultural producers Brazil, Mexico, France, and Germany. The United States, China, India, and Russia have not joined. **The U.N. Development Programme, World Food Programme, and FAO are part of it.** The majority of members are organizations such as **civil society groups, farmers’ and Indigenous people’s groups, and philanthropic foundations.** For now, there **are no major private sector “Big Ag” players on the member list.** Oliveros said the coalition is focused on first bringing more small- and medium-sized enterprises into the fold.”

“In addition to IFAD and the European Union, **the coalition is financially backed by Biovision**, the [McKnight Foundation](#), the [German Agency for International Cooperation](#), and the Swiss Confederation.....”

Devex - As India battles deadly heat waves, can insurance offer relief?

<https://www.devex.com/news/as-india-battles-deadly-heat-waves-can-insurance-offer-relief-107878>

“As extreme heat becomes the new normal, a new parametric insurance scheme in India hopes to provide an innovative financing model for adaptation in a warming world.”

“... Run in **partnership between the nonprofit Climate Resilience for All and the Self Employed Women’s Association, or SEWA, a women’s labor union in India**, the heat insurance scheme was piloted this summer and aims to protect workers against heat-induced financial losses.....”

“... **Parametric insurance** is one way to do this. Unlike indemnity insurance, which pays out for specific losses, parametric insurance payouts are triggered automatically once predetermined thresholds are crossed. This negates the need for insurers to authenticate claims, facilitating faster payouts and helping disaster-impacted communities get back on their feet more quickly.... **The collaboration between SEWA and Climate Resilience for All aims to change that. In one of several experiments with parametric disaster insurance in India, it offered heat insurance to 50,000 SEWA members, many of whom work as outdoor laborers with little protection from the heat.....”**

Bloomberg - South Africa Seeks to Alter Coal Pact Tied to \$2.6 Billion

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2024-07-03/south-africa-seeks-to-renegotiate-coal-pact-tied-to-2-6-billion>

“The nation wants to alter terms of landmark funding agreement; Negotiations are underway with group tied to the World Bank.”

Infectious diseases & NTDs

Telegraph - Could rodents help in the fight against tuberculosis?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/tb-rats-could-rodents-help-in-fight-against-tuberculosis/>

“They are perhaps better known for being disease reservoirs – but this **team of rats is working to diagnose TB infections across Africa.**”

“... **Eugene and his esteemed colleagues (e.g. Lois, Campbell, and Eunice) – are some of around 50 giant African pouched rats working to diagnose tuberculosis (TB) infections in patients across Africa.** The rodents have so far **screened half a million TB samples in Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Mozambique** – all of which rank in the top 30 countries with the highest burden of the disease. The creatures, which can grow to be roughly the size of a dachshund, **act as a second-line defence,**

double-checking negative tests from local clinics to see if they might have missed the presence of the TB bacteria in samples. “

“365 days a year, couriers on motorbikes collect TB-negative samples from clinics in the countries’ cities, towns, and villages and bring them to the **rats, which are based in central labs operated by the Belgian charity APOPO.....”**

Plos GPH - Optimizing the cascade of prevention to protect people from tuberculosis: A potential game changer for reducing global tuberculosis incidence

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003306>

Alberto Matteelli et al.

NCDs

WHO - WHO releases first-ever clinical treatment guideline for tobacco cessation in adults

<https://www.who.int/news/item/02-07-2024-who-releases-first-ever-clinical-treatment-guideline-for-tobacco-cessation-in-adults>

- Related: UN News coverage - [New WHO guidelines to help millions quit tobacco.](#)

“The UN World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday released the first-ever guidelines for those seeking to quit tobacco use, **recommending a range of initiatives, treatments and digital interventions.**”

Mental health & psycho-social wellbeing

Vox - The world’s emotional status is actually pretty good, a new global report finds

<https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/358022/global-mental-health-happiness-measure-gdp>

“But which country comes first in happiness completely changes depending on how you measure.”

“**The Gallup Global Emotions Report for 2024**, released last Tuesday ... doesn’t offer yet another critique of why GDP isn’t a perfect indicator for progress. Instead, **it reports on the annual state of two indexes — one for positive emotions, the other for negative — that can complement GDP** in trying to give us a quick sense of how society is actually doing. **The results are surprisingly ... fine.**”

“... the topline results from the Gallup report look pretty good. Positive emotions reached a score of **71 out of 100 worldwide, the highest since the pandemic began. And negative emotions**

dropped for the first time since 2014. Among all age groups, **young people were, by far, the best** off. They experienced more positive emotions than anyone else and fewer negative ones. And in both directions, that's been the case since measurement began in 2006."

"... And to make things even more interesting: While GDP does track nicely with some approximations of well-being, **not a single highly economically developed country is to be found in the top ranks of Gallup's Positive Experiences Index. The list is dominated by Latin American and Southeast Asian countries...."**

Guardian - Campaign to decriminalise suicide in four Caribbean nations gains momentum

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/article/2024/jun/28/decriminalise-suicide-caribbean-nations-campaign-acc>

"**New coalition formed to push for repeal of colonial-era laws** and reduce barriers to access for those seeking mental health help."

Guardian - Healthy childhood diet can 'keep mind sharp into 70s' and ward off dementia

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/article/2024/jul/01/healthy-diet-in-childhood-keeps-mind-sharp-into-70s-and-wards-off-dementia>

"Study is first to track people at different time points in life and finds close link between nutrition and cognitive ability." **UK study.**

Social & commercial determinants of health

Boston University School of Public Health - Income, Urbanicity Influence Perceptions of Factors that Shape Health

[Boston University;](#)

"A new global study led by Salma Abdalla found that **highest-earning people view genetics as the most important factor for health, while lower-income people most value social support. Urban residents prioritize healthcare, while nonurban residents also believe social support plays the largest role in their health.**"

"Published in ***Communications Medicine***, a journal in the *Nature* portfolio, **the study spanned eight countries with varying characteristics** and found that income level and degree of urban living may help determine what people believe to be most influential to their health.

... The findings underscore how, regardless of the country, socioeconomic factors play a substantial role in informing people's perceptions of what matters most for health. Aside from healthcare, survey participants in urban settings also identified education, the built environment,

and income and wealth as important determinants of health in greater proportions than **people in nonurban settings**, while nonurban residents deemed social support, employment, and childhood conditions, culture, and politics as more impactful to their health....”

Sexual & Reproductive health rights

HP&P - Understanding Kenyan policymakers’ perspectives about the introduction of new maternal vaccines

<https://academic.oup.com/heapol/advance-article/doi/10.1093/heapol/czae059/7704475?searchresult=1>

by R J Limaye et al.

BMJ Feature - HPV: Cameroon fights back against one of the world’s lowest vaccination rates

<https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q607>

“HPV vaccination is one of the most effective forms of cancer prevention, yet in Cameroon the vaccination rate is just 5%. **Stephanie Ferguson** reports on the **grassroots efforts starting to achieve success in improving the rate.**”

Plos One - Health technology assessment for sexual reproductive health and rights benefits package design in sub-Saharan Africa: A scoping review of evidence-informed deliberative processes

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0306042>

By W M Simangolwa et al.

TGH - The Case for Menstrual Products on Airplanes

<https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/case-menstrual-products-airplanes>

“Advocates argue period products should be available on airplanes and in other public places for those who need them.”

Journal of Global Health - Quality adjusted coverage of family planning services in low- and middle-income countries: Analysis of 33 countries using Demographic and Health Survey data

<https://jogh.org/2024/jogh-14-04125>

By Elizabeth A Hazel.

Neonatal and child health

WHO and partners launch global dashboard on child health

<https://www.who.int/news/item/28-06-2024-who-and-partners-launch-global-dashboard-on-child-health>

“Shedding light on issues ranging from childhood survival to educational attainment and exposure to violence, [a global dashboard](#) will help policymakers, the health community and the public track progress on some of the critical factors influencing children’s health and their futures. The updated Child Health and Well-being Dashboard aims to capture progress against several core indicators, grouped within four key domains:....”

SS&M - Understanding autism and its treatment: The child's perspective

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953624005197>

By Y Karni-Visel et al.

Adolescent health

Devex – How to ethically work with child advocates

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-to-ethically-work-with-child-advocates-107118>

“As more international development organizations include youth advocates in their work — including giving them speaking opportunities at global summits — how can they do so in a way that protects them? Devex asks the experts.”

- See also Devex – [Harassment, death threats, and burnout: The risks of child advocacy](#)

“Former youth advocates say that campaigning with international organizations gave them a global platform — but it also disrupted their lives in ways nobody prepared them for.”

Access to medicines & health technology

Nature News - Combined COVID-flu vaccines are coming: Moderna jab clears major test

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02121-1>

“First large trial suggests mRNA drug gives better protection from SARS-CoV-2 and influenza viruses than single-target shots.”

- Related: [GSK reworks CureVac deal, paying \\$429M upfront to grab control of mRNA flu and Covid vaccines.](#)

See also [Stat](#): “SK and CureVac have restructured an ongoing partnership that gives the British pharma giant control over the development of experimental mRNA-based Covid and flu vaccines, the companies said Wednesday. CureVac, the German biotech that focuses on mRNA vaccines, will receive an initial payment of €400 million upfront (\$430 million) from GSK, and is eligible for another €1.05 billion (\$1.1 billion) in future payments if certain milestones are hit. In exchange, GSK is taking full control over the development, manufacturing, and marketing of vaccines for seasonal flu and Covid that are currently in Phase 2 trials, and a bird flu vaccine in Phase 1 studies...”

Reuters - India plans incentives for diabetes, obesity drug makers in 2026, government official says

[Reuters](#):

“ India is planning to offer incentives to promote local manufacturing of GLP-1 drugs used to treat diabetes and obesity, in 2026, a top government official said on Friday. GLP-1 drugs, originally approved to treat diabetes, are also widely being used to treat obesity as they slow digestion, helping patients feel full longer....”

“Danish drugmaker Novo Nordisk's **patent on semaglutide** - a GLP-1 agonist and the key ingredient in its wildly popular obesity drug Wegovy and diabetes drug Ozempic - is **set to expire in India in 2026**, industry experts say.....”

Plos GPH – Novel approaches to enable equitable access to monoclonal antibodies in low- and middle-income countries

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003418>

Review by S Malhotra et al.

FT - Moderna secures partial victory in Covid vaccine legal fight

<https://www.ft.com/content/c57bc08f-50b3-42ef-ad44-4d592b189ce7>

“Pfizer and BioNTech infringed pharmaceutical group’s mRNA patent, High Court in London rules.”

“Moderna has secured a partial victory in its intellectual property battle with Pfizer and BioNTech over the development of Covid-19 vaccines, after a London court found one of the US company’s patents had been infringed. **The High Court in London on Tuesday found that Pfizer and BioNTech’s coronavirus vaccine infringed a patent that Moderna filed in 2011 covering a part of the mRNA platform, which was central to the jabs. The court also ruled that a pledge made by Moderna not**

to enforce its intellectual property rights while the pandemic continued was “at most a temporary forbearance” and had later been “validly retracted” by the US company. The judgment means that Moderna could be entitled to damages for UK sales of Pfizer and BioNTech’s vaccine from March 8 2022, when it withdrew the pledge. However, in a mixed ruling, another of Moderna’s patents — specific to respiratory virus vaccines based on mRNA technology — was found to be “invalid”, a finding that in effect upholds Pfizer and BioNTech’s right to use a similar innovation. All three companies said they disagreed with aspects of the ruling. Pfizer and BioNTech said they would appeal, and Moderna said it would consider an appeal.....”

Reuters - Novo Nordisk, Lilly must cut US prices of weight-loss drugs, Biden says

<http://reut.rs/4cNUoSr>

“U.S. President Joe Biden and Senator Bernie Sanders called on Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly to reduce the prices of their weight-loss and diabetes drugs, in a jointly authored opinion piece published in USA Today on Tuesday.”

Health Affairs - Estimating The Effects Of COVID-19 On Globalized Markets For Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients

M Barber, S Moon et al; <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2023.00722>

“... **We found** that API prices for key essential medicines not used for COVID-19 did not change significantly in the year after the World Health Organization pandemic declaration, but volume decreased by 80 percent. Prices for medicines speculatively repurposed for COVID-19, such as hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin, increased by as much as 250 percent compared with prices for nonrepurposed medicines, but only ivermectin saw a decrease in volume...”

Lancet Infectious Diseases – The inclusion of children and adolescents in tuberculosis diagnostic development and evaluation—a consensus statement

EM Bijker et al; for the **Child TB Diagnostics Consensus Group**

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(24\)00339-6/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(24)00339-6/abstract)

Review.

- Link: WIPO - [Patent Landscape Report - Generative Artificial Intelligence \(GenAI\)](#)

Human resources for health

WHO - Health workforce migration: Expert Advisory Group meets in Geneva

<https://www.who.int/news/item/19-06-2024-health-workforce-migration--expert-advisory-group-meets-in-geneva>

“On 17–18 June, WHO convened the Expert Advisory Group on the WHO Global Code of Practice on the International Recruitment of Health Personnel (the Code). “With international migration of health and care workers at record levels, the Expert Advisory Group review of the Code is most timely. The aim is to have the most comprehensive account of health worker migration to inform a contemporary consensus on solutions and mutual benefits for countries and health workers.”

“... Effective implementation of the Code, informed by regular expert review, can safeguard countries with workforce vulnerabilities to meet people’s health needs, promote fair working conditions for migrant health workers, foster collaboration among countries through bilateral agreements and encourage countries to produce and employ sufficient workers to meet national requirements.”

HRH - Impacts of industrial actions, protests, strikes and lockouts by health and care workers during COVID-19 and other pandemic contexts: a systematic review

<https://human-resources-health.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12960-024-00923-y>

Review by I Craveiro et al.

HRH - Harnessing peer mentorship as a tool to turn human resource for health brain drain into brain gain: a case study of a Nigerian peer-mentored research group

P Toyin-Thomas et al. <https://human-resources-health.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12960-024-00932-x>

“....This case study describes the potential of peer mentorship to tackle two critical issues: bridging health research capacity of doctors from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and the transformation of human resource for health brain drain into "brain gain"”

Plos GPH - A gender-based review of workplace violence amongst the global health workforce—A scoping review of the literature

Sioban Nelson et al;

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003336>

Among the findings: “.... Younger age, less experience, shifting duties, specific clinical settings, lower professional status, organizational hierarchy, and minority status were found to be sensitive to gender, reflecting women’s structural disadvantages in the workplace.”

Decolonize Global Health

Themrise Khan (on LinkedIn) – Everyone still wants to be a savior

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/activity-7212737099148521472-P1N0/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios

Quote: “...“The entire "decolonization" industry is itself one of #saviourism. Where it's now simply assumed that the #globalsouth needs saving from the #globalnorth. People need #justice. They don't need saving. **SO dont be a savior. Of any colour.** #globaldev #systems .”

Nature (Career) - How Rwandan paediatrician Agnes Binagwaho fights racial stereotypes in global health

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02144-8>

“The former health minister talks about her push to transform health equity in Rwanda and **calls out the concept of Western supremacy.**”

HPW - Positioning the University of Ghana as a ‘Research-Intensive’ Institution on Neglected Diseases

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/positioning-the-university-of-ghana-as-a-research-intensive-institution-on-neglected-diseases/>

Third article in a *in* a [series](#) on TDR’s research capacity strengthening programme.

Miscellaneous

World Bank country classifications by income level for 2024-2025

<https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/world-bank-country-classifications-by-income-level-for-2024-2025>

“Countries changing income category in FY25.”

West Bank and Gaza was the only country whose classification moved downward this year....

Devex - Women workers leading to end gender-based violence and harassment at work

<https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/women-workers-leading-to-end-gender-based-violence-and-harassment-at-work-107881>

“Women workers led a global campaign that resulted in a binding international labor treaty — ILO C190 — protecting workers from gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work. Devex spoke with two leaders at the forefront of the movement about what’s needed to implement it.”

FT – World headed for ‘food wars’, warns major commodities trader

<https://www.ft.com/content/64ee15d1-c61e-4f48-b6ce-58956176beb0>

“Protectionist policies are exacerbating inflation, says Olam Agri.”

“The world is headed for “food wars” as geopolitical tensions and climate change push countries into conflict over waning supplies, said one of the world’s largest agricultural commodity traders. “We have fought many wars over oil. We will fight bigger wars over food and water,” said Sunny Verghese, chief executive of Olam Agri, a Singapore-based agricultural trading house. Speaking at the Redburn Atlantic and Rothschild consumer conference last week, Verghese **warned that trade barriers imposed by governments seeking to shore up domestic food stocks had exacerbated food inflation....”**

CGD notes - The Evolution of the ODA Accounting Rules

S C Bellés et al ; <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/evolution-oda-accounting-rules>

« In this note, we outline a brief history of the evolution of the ODA accounting rules to date, highlighting how – and why – the ODA concept has changed since it emerged in 1969. Doing so provides a starting point for considering whether the current concept of ODA remains “fit for purpose” and whether, or how, the concept could reform to better meet current needs. **The note proceeds chronologically, with each section corresponding to a unique period in the ODA evolution timeline....”**

CGD Notes - Proposals for ODA Reform: A Review of Key Approaches

R Calleja et al; <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/proposals-oda-reform-review-key-approaches>

“ In this background note, we briefly review the major reform proposals from 2009 onwards, highlighting the key issues underlying approaches to ODA reforms, and the main “types” of proposals typically put forward. ...”

Telegraph - Scientists develop ‘Facebook for STIs’ where users can share their sexual health status

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/sti-app-social-media/>

“Stigma is the biggest barrier for people sharing their sexual history in a safe way – researchers hope this app will change this.”

“The app, **Zults**, allows users to upload their STI results and share them with potential partners in a bid to cut the risk of spreading infections. The app has been launched as sexual health services across the UK grapple with an unprecedented increase in infections....”

Papers & reports

HP&P - The influence of crisis on policy formulation: The case of alcohol regulation in South Africa during COVID-19 (2020-2021)

M Hargovan, M Orgill et al; <https://academic.oup.com/heapol/advance-article/doi/10.1093/heapol/czae055/7700917?searchresult=1>

“... Context is central to the policy cycle, yet **the influence of crises on policy formulation** is underrepresented in the health policy literature in Low-and-Middle Income countries (LMIC). **This paper analyses a detailed case study of how the COVID-19 crisis influenced policy formulation processes for the regulation of alcohol in South Africa, as part of COVID-19 control measures, in 2020 and 2021.....**”

Plos GPH - Missing the vulnerable—Inequalities in social protection in 13 sub-Saharan African countries: Analysis of population-based surveys

D Chipanta et al;
<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0002973>

“We assessed socioeconomic inequalities in social protection coverage among the public, men and women living with the human immunodeficiency virus (MLHIV, WLHIV), and adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). We used population-based data from **Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. ...**”

Health Research Policy & Systems - Analysis of funding landscape for health policy and systems research in the Eastern Mediterranean Region: A scoping review of the literature over the past decade

[Health Research Policy & Systems](#)

By R Fadlallah et al.

JAMA viewpoint - The Human Cost of Politicizing Immigration: Migration Stigma, US Politics, and Health

L Yang et al ; <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2820533>

“**The politicization of immigration, heightened by the crisis at the US-Mexico border and amplified by the gravity of the 2024 US presidential election, has profound public health consequences not only for immigrants but also ethnic and racial minority groups. To draw attention to and**

understand this state of affairs, **we use a new social science concept, *migration stigma***, which emerged from a scientific forum that brought together more than 30 scholars from the fields of stigma and international migration. Through syntheses of a variety of literature, **scholars identified stigma as a mechanism linking societal politics to health**. Thus, in the sections below, **we discuss migration stigma in the context of the US election and identify opportunities for the development of structural competencies for physicians as well as future research on migration stigma and health.**”

Health Sociology Review (Editorial) - Global healthcare systems and violence against women and girls

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14461242.2024.2366037>

Editorial of a special issue. “... the aim of this special issue was to assemble a collection of scholarly work that contributes to our understanding of minority and marginalised women’s access to healthcare following gender-based violence...”

BMJ GH – Responsive public health doctoral education: experiences and reflections from a School of Public Health in South Africa

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/9/7/e015095>

By Helen Schneider et al.

Tweets (via X & Bluesky)

Justice Nonvignon

“Can "global health" reduce the emphasis on meetings upon meetings, and the "self" (open to interpretation) and **put more emphasis on work that truly causes impact on lives?** Random thought midweek.”

Anthony Costello

“**We need a global SUMMIT to accelerate action on the climate crisis.** 500,000 hospitalised and 1300 dead in Saudi, unknown numbers affected across South +central Asia, floods and drought across Europe, USA, S America and Africa, wildfires in all regions.”

Sandra Wachter

“**AI does not grow on trees. AI already contributes more to climate change than aviation.** We have to move away from an one-sided overhyped discussion & **think about specific tasks & sectors that AI can be beneficial for & not just blindly implement it.**”

Tulio de Oliveira (thread on X re Telegraph article on Mpox)

<https://x.com/Tuliodna/status/1806465215292133626>

Starting with: “By being in the scientific manuscript of the new Mpox Ib clade in the DRC, I found this **piece at the Telegraph very inconsistent with the scientific results** presented. **This kind of news can spread misinformation, panic and increase discrimination...**”

PS: Marion Koopmans agreed - [also on X](#).