

# IHP news 786 : Transformation is now...at least that's how Generation Z in Kenya sees it!

( 19 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,

This week's intro was written by **Sophie Vusha**, member of the [IHP editorial team](#).

*Kenya [has recently captured global attention due to widespread protests led by Gen-Z activists](#) against the controversial Finance Bill 2024. Initially supported by some parliament members, the bill faced an immense backlash, [leading President Ruto to withdraw it amid mounting pressure from demonstrators](#). The protests highlighted significant youth discontent, prompting demands for the disbanding of the cabinet, which the president ultimately agreed to on July 11.*

*Despite this concession, the situation remains tense, with young people continuing to protest early this week. [President Ruto's call for dialogue with Gen-Z was dismissed as ineffective](#), pushing many to turn to social media (X, TikTok and Instagram) as platforms for expression and organization. This surge in activism has resonated across Africa, already [inspiring similar movements in Nigeria, Malawi, and Uganda](#). During the pandemic, of course, Nigeria already had its own protests in which [social media](#) played a key role.*

*Coinciding with these events, [World Youth Skills Day](#) (15 July) served as a reminder of the urgent need to equip young people with skills for employment and entrepreneurship. International organizations keep [stressing](#) this as well, in order to reap the "demographic dividend" in sub-Saharan Africa. Many in Kenya remained fully focused on protests, however. And they know why.*

*Last week's [World Population Day](#) (11 July) emphasized the theme "Leave No One Behind, Count Everyone", highlighting the importance of capturing all human diversity in data systems. This approach is crucial for ensuring that (also) the rights and needs of young people, particularly in Kenya, are recognized and addressed.*

***In sum, the grievances of Kenya's youth are pressing and cannot be overlooked. It's essential to ensure that young people's rights are included in national priorities and that their voices are heard in decision-making processes. This situation reflects broader challenges faced by youth across many African nations, underscoring the urgent need for meaningful engagement and solutions tailored to their concerns.***

**Sophie Vusha** (Senior research officer, International Centre for Reproductive Health)

Other news covered in this week's IHP issue includes among others: [stalled childhood immunization figures](#) published last weekend; [INB10 discussions](#) (re a pandemic agreement) (on 16-17 July); the High-Level segment of the [HLPF in New York](#) (including a [quote from Amina Mohammed](#) for the ages, “**Future generations deserve more than 17 percent of a sustainable future**”, referring to the lousy SDG “track record” so far); and the [run-up to the AIDS conference](#) in Munich, Germany (22-26 July). A conference that already feels controversial, and it hasn't even started yet. Finally, 18 November seems to be the designated “**Health Day**” at [COP29 in Baku](#) this year - well, a “[Human Capital / Children and Youth / Health / Education](#) day”, technically. Let's all fly there to celebrate it 😊.

Enjoy your reading.

The editorial team

## Highlights of the week

### Childhood immunization: stalled

**Joint News Release WHO/UNICEF: Global childhood immunization levels stalled in 2023 leaving many without life-saving protection**

<https://www.who.int/news/item/15-07-2024-global-childhood-immunization-levels-stalled-in-2023-leaving-many-without-life-saving-protection>

**“New data reveal nearly 3 in 4 infants live in countries where low vaccine coverage driving measles outbreaks.”**

**“Global childhood immunization coverage stalled in 2023, leaving 2.7 million additional children un- and under-vaccinated compared to pre-pandemic levels in 2019, according to data published today by the World Health Organization (WHO) and UNICEF. The latest WHO and UNICEF estimates of national immunization coverage (WUENIC) – which provide the world's largest and most comprehensive dataset on immunization trends for vaccinations against 14 diseases – underscore the need for ongoing catch-up, recovery and system-strengthening efforts.”**

**“... More than half of unvaccinated children live in the 31 countries with fragile, conflict-affected and vulnerable settings, where children are especially vulnerable to preventable diseases because of disruptions and lack of access to security, nutrition, and health services...”**

**“... Low vaccine coverage already driving measles outbreaks: The data further show that vaccination rates against the deadly measles disease stalled, leaving nearly 35 million children with no or only partial protection. In 2023, only 83% of children worldwide received their first dose of the measles vaccine through routine health services, while the number of children receiving their second dose modestly increased from the previous year, reaching 74% of children. These figures fall short of the 95% coverage needed to prevent outbreaks, avert unnecessary disease and deaths, and achieve measles elimination goals.”**

“...**Global HPV vaccine coverage among girls increased substantially**: The new data also highlight **some brighter spots in immunization coverage**. The steady introduction of new and under-utilized vaccines, including for human papillomavirus (HPV), meningitis, pneumococcal, polio and rotavirus disease, continue to expand the breadth of protection, particularly in the 57 countries supported by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. .... **However, HPV vaccine coverage is well below the 90% target to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem**, reaching only 56% of adolescent girls in high-income countries and 23% in low- and middle-income countries. “

“... **Robust local action needed to reach everyone, everywhere with vaccines**: While there’s been modest progress in some regions, including the African region and low-income countries, **the latest estimates highlight the need to accelerate efforts to meet the Immunization Agenda 2030 (IA2030) targets of 90% coverage, and no more than 6.5 million ‘zero-dose’ children globally by 2030.**”

- Coverage via HPW – [Conflicts and Humanitarian Crises Stall Global Immunisation of Children](#)

“Childhood immunisation has stalled in the past year, mainly due to increased global conflict, with **the number of children receiving no vaccines increasing to 14.5 million in 2023 – up from 13.9 million in 2022**. ... There has also been an **almost threefold increase in measles cases in the past year – a sign of inadequate vaccinations** – including in conflict-ridden Sudan, Yemen and Afghanistan....”

- And via the Guardian - [War has prevented 15m children being immunised against diseases, UN warns](#)

“**Vaccine misinformation has added to crisis of collapsed healthcare and poor nutrition**, Unicef and WHO report.”

“**Conflicts have hampered efforts to vaccinate children across the world**, health leaders have warned, as new figures showed about **14.5 million children had not received a single immunisation dose. More than half of the children live in countries where armed conflicts or other humanitarian crises had created fragile and vulnerable situations**, according to data from the UN children’s agency, Unicef, and the World Health Organization.”

“The war in Sudan has led to a huge rise in numbers of unvaccinated children, from about 110,000 in 2021 to an estimated 701,000 last year. Yemen has 580,000 unvaccinated children, up from 424,000 three years ago.... **In addition to the 14.5 million “zero-dose” children in 2023, 6.5 million children were “under-vaccinated”, meaning they had not received all their recommended doses. .... Both figures were up from 2022**, officials said on Monday, warning that despite progress in some regions, **an international goal to halve the number of zero-dose children by 2030 was off-track.**”

“... **Global vaccine coverage has yet to return to 2019’s levels, before the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted immunisation programmes**. That year, 12.8 million children were classed as “zero-dose” and a further 5.5 million as under-vaccinated.”

“**More than half of the world’s zero-dose children live in 10 countries, which officials said were “a mix of those with large birth cohorts, weak health systems or both”**. They include Nigeria, India,

the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Indonesia. In 2023, Sudan, Yemen and Afghanistan joined the list.....”

### **GAVI - Nearly 200 million routine vaccine doses allocated to reach millions of children missed during COVID-19 pandemic**

<https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/nearly-200-million-routine-vaccine-doses-allocated-reach-millions-children-missed>

“Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance has completed the allocation of nearly 200 million doses of vaccine to **35 lower-income countries** in an effort to reach millions of children who missed out on critical routine vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic. **The allocation follows a Gavi Board decision in December 2023 to approve US\$ 290 million funding for the “Big Catch-Up” initiative.** With allocation complete, the **focus will now be on delivery.** So far, 32 million doses have been shipped to 13 countries, with 10 million doses set to be shipped before the end of July.”

### **HLPF on SDGs (New York)**

With some info on the High-Level segment (15-17 July) and a few more reports.

### **UN News - Sustainable development: ‘Be leaders and inspire’ UN deputy chief urges, as 2030 deadline nears**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152086>

“**With only 17 per cent of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on track and just six more years until the 2030 deadline,** UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed has called for a new era of inspiring leadership, **ahead of a special event on Monday to galvanize action.**”

“The **Special Event entitled Keeping the SDG Promise: Pathways for Acceleration** is taking place on the sidelines of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) now underway, aimed at getting the SDGs back on track and leaving no country behind. It **will give a boost to the so-called “High Impact Initiatives” championed by the whole UN development system and key investment strategies, while also highlighting countries.**”

“Speaking exclusively to *UN News’s* Mayra Lopes, **the UN deputy chief emphasized six key transition areas for accelerating the SDGs which are essential to success: food systems, energy access and affordability; digital connectivity, education, jobs and social protection; and climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution....**”

### **UN News - UN deputy chief calls for major arms spending cuts and urgent action to save SDGs**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152121>

**“The UN Deputy Secretary-General on Monday urged global leaders to redirect resources from warfare to peace and sustainable development initiatives.”**

“Speaking on behalf of Secretary-General António Guterres, Amina Mohammed called for immediate and decisive action to salvage the faltering Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ... Highlighting the critical state of the SDGs, Ms. Mohammed noted that only 17 percent of the targets are on track as the 2030 deadline approaches. **“Future generations deserve more than 17 percent of a sustainable future,”** she emphasized...”

**“... outlining a four-pronged strategy for urgent acceleration in a bid to meet the 2030 deadline for the Goals.** The first step, she stressed, is to establish peace, underscoring that political and financial resources should be redirected from conflicts to development efforts. She also emphasized the importance of advancing green and digital transition, urging nations to enhance their climate action plans by 2025, aligning them with the 1.5-degree Celsius limit in line with the Paris Agreement and invest in expanding digital connectivity....”

PS: **“ During its three-day ministerial segment, the HLPF will hold a general debate on the theme From the SDG Summit to the Summit of the Future.** Ministers and high-level representatives of participating States, as well as intergovernmental organizations, and major groups and other stakeholders will take action to realise the Political Declaration of the 2023 SDG Summit and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs. They will also contribute to the preparations of the **Summit of the Future, to be held this September.**”

## **UN News - UN forum on sustainable development concludes with renewed commitment, call for urgent action**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152276>

“The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development concluded on Wednesday, with nations reiterating the need for renewed impetus and accelerated actions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the 2030 deadline.”

Included the **adoption of a Ministerial Declaration.**

## **UN News - The triple planetary crisis: Global Foresight Report reveals global shifts**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152136>

**“Eight critical global shifts are accelerating a triple planetary crisis of climate change, nature loss, pollution and waste, according to the new [Global Foresight Report](#) produced by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Science Council (ISC) released on Monday.**

“The rapid rate of change, uncertainty and technological developments we’re seeing, against a backdrop of geopolitical turbulence, means **any country can be thrown off course more easily and more often,**” said [UNEP](#) Executive Director Inger Andersen.”

**“The shifts include humanity’s degradation of the natural world, the rapid development of technologies such as AI, competition for natural resources, widening inequalities and declining**

**trust in institutions.** Together, they are creating a so-called polycrisis in which global crises are amplifying and synchronizing – with huge implications for human and planetary wellbeing....”

“... **Alongside the eight shifts the report identifies 18 signals of change.** These signals – identified by hundreds of global experts through regional and stakeholder consultations that included youth – offer a deeper glimpse into potential disruptions, both positive and negative, that the world must prepare for....”

PS: “... Despite these emerging crises, the report also finds that **adopting better foresight tools** will be the best way to help the world anticipate future disruptions....” Plus a **new social contract.**

- **Key messages of this report - ([3 pager](#))**

## IISD - 2024 Global Synergy Report Calls for Win-win Solutions for Climate and SDGs

**[IISD:](#)**

“The report stresses the need for an integrated approach across sectors and between countries, policymakers, researchers, financiers, business, and civil society for “a just, equitable and sustainable future for all that leaves no one behind”. It **identifies the 2025 round of NDCs under the Paris Agreement as a major opportunity for countries to better integrate the SDGs and national priorities into climate plans.**”

“...The **2024 Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy** is titled, ‘Synergy Solutions for Climate and SDG Action: Bridging the Ambition Gap for the Future We Want.’ It builds on the [first Global Report on Climate and SDG Synergy](#) published by the Expert Group on Climate and SDG Synergy in 2023. ....”

## HPW - New UN Report Calls for Fresh Approach to Ending Food Insecurity and Hunger

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/new-un-report-calls-for-fresh-approach-to-ending-food-insecurity-and-hunger/>

“Food security and nutrition initiatives often fail due to fragmentation, a lack of consensus on priorities, and the prevalence of numerous actors delivering mostly small, short-term projects, according to this year’s [State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World \(SOFI\)](#) report, **due to be released next week.** More targeted and less risk-averse finance, as well as better alignment and synergy amongst different funding sources, is critical to scaling up assistance more effectively in hunger-stricken areas of the world, said **Qu Dongyu, Director-General of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.** He was speaking this week during an event on [Finance to End Hunger and Food Insecurity](#), held on the sidelines of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-Level Political Forum in New York City....”

“The annual report, a collaboration of **FAO, the World Health Organization (WHO) and other UN agencies, analyses the progress made in addressing SDG2, No Hunger.** The full document is due to be launched July 24 at a G20 ministerial task force meeting....”

“SOFI 2024 estimates that achieving SDG2 will cost approximately \$ 77 billion, or less than one per cent of global GDP. The sum is beyond the scope achievable for the public sector, which then points to the need for blended, private-public financing....”

Also with the view of dr Tedros.

## Pandemic Agreement: 10<sup>th</sup> INB meeting (16-17 July)

INB discussions resumed this week. Below **coverage of the meeting this week, analysis of the state of affairs, and more...**

- WHO - [Tenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body \(INB\) for a WHO instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response](#)

**WHO - Proposed workplan, meeting schedule and updates, as appropriate, to the method of work**

[https://apps.who.int/gb/inb/pdf\\_files/inb10/A\\_inb10\\_3-en.pdf](https://apps.who.int/gb/inb/pdf_files/inb10/A_inb10_3-en.pdf)

WHO published this on 11 July.

**TWN - WHO: Proposed INB10 work plans seeks to rush negotiations, compromising equity**

<https://www.twn.my/title2/health.info/2024/hi240701.htm>

Published ahead of the meeting. “**The proposed work plan to be considered and adopted during the 10th meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB10) on the pandemic instrument seeks to continue negotiations in a rushed manner, compromising the prospects of equity in the instrument....**”

With among others: “... The INB negotiations are frontloaded, with a view to continuing the same rushed manner of negotiations observed up to the WHA77 last May. This **approach involves proposals to defer key equity elements to future instruments to be adopted only after the pandemic instrument itself comes into force. ....**”

**HPW – New Blood for Resumed Pandemic Agreement Negotiations**

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/new-blood-for-resumed-pandemic-agreement-negotiations/>

Coverage of the opening plenary.

**“Anne-Claire Amprou, French Ambassador for Global Health, has replaced Roland Driecq of the Netherlands as the co-chair of the World Health Organization (WHO) Intergovernmental**

**Negotiating Body (INB)** hammering out the pandemic agreement. However, Amprou, who coordinated the French response to COVID-19 and was a member of the international Ebola task force, is **interim co-chair pending further discussion from the WHO European region.**”

“**New vice-chair Fleur Davis (Australia), joins existing vice-chairs Tovar da Silva Nunes (Brazil), Dr Viroj Tangcharoensathien (Thailand) and Amr Ramadan (Egypt).** The two new representatives bring more much-needed gender balance into the male-dominated leadership of the INB....”

“... Welcoming the two new representatives, **WHO Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** said that **“consensus over the outstanding issues is possible within a relatively short time, if you prioritize public health over other considerations”**. ...”

“... **The Africa Group supports the proposal that the next INB meeting in September focuses on Article 12**, the vexed issue of pathogen access and benefit sharing (PABS), added Eswatini, speaking on behalf of the Africa region and Egypt. **They want any decision on PABS to be included in the main agreement, not as a “separate instrument”**, said Eswatini, a small, landlocked country in southern Africa. .... **Estwatini also called for shorter, less intense INB meetings, explaining that the marathon sessions of the past were extremely taxing on small delegations.**”

“Ethiopia, South Africa and Indonesia also stressed their **preference for the agreement to be sealed by the end of this year via a World Health Assembly (WHA) Special Session in December.**”

“... **This plan proposes an 11th INB meeting from 9-20th September and 12th meeting from 4-15 November.** No negotiations are possible in October as various WHO regions hold their conferences. However, delegates proposed inter-sessional meeting during that month including sessions with experts to make progress. **The deadline for calling the WHA special session to discuss and adopt the pandemic agreement is 15 November.**”

Also with the **view of US Ambassador Pamela Hamamoto** on a way forward....

And: “**The European Union’s Americo Zampetti** called for the **WHO Secretariat to guide the INB on overlaps between the pandemic agreement and the recently agreed International Health Regulations (IHR)** to help “cleaning up certain areas in the text”....”

## **HPW - Pandemic Agreement Timetable Leaves Little Room for December Adoption**

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/pandemic-agreement-timetable-leaves-little-room-for-december-adoption/>

(report as of Wednesday evening) “As delegates at this week’s Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) worked to nail down a day-by-day agenda for negotiating a pandemic agreement for the next few months, **it appears increasingly unlikely that the talks will conclude by year-end.** The detailed work plan – an indication that the Bureau has heard criticism that it has given member states too little notice in the past – underscores that there is so much to do in so little time.”

“**Delegates have also resolved to include experts.** This is high time, given that the structures and processes they agree on should be workable for frontline pandemic ‘responders’: scientists studying

pathogens, pharmaceutical companies making medicines, health workers and government officials trying to contain outbreaks. But it will mean more time is needed.”

**“New co-chair Anne-Claire Amprou also told delegates on Wednesday that they would need to decide by 11 November – not 15th, as assumed the previous day – if there was sufficient agreement to call a World Health Assembly (HWA) special session in December to adopt a pandemic agreement. The US wants a “stocktake” by the end of the next INB meeting on 20 September to see how realistic this is, while the Bureau proposed such a stocktake at the INB meeting in early November.”**

**“Delegates were divided on which experts should be consulted...”**

PS: **“The INB circled around whether to allow groups with official stakeholders status to sit in on closed drafting sessions.** Initially, it appeared stakeholders would be allowed into meetings, but by the end of the meeting, delegates settled on closed talks and daily information sessions at the start of each day with stakeholders.” **Big disappointment**, in other words.

- See also Devex - [Pandemic treaty 2.0](#)

**“In early September, the WHO secretariat will be providing information on the “legal architecture” of the proposed pandemic agreement that includes options for member states to consider, as well as a document detailing how the amended International Health Regulations complement proposed articles in the pandemic agreement.”**

**“Who’s in the room:** Several interested parties from civil society and other health experts have long asked to be able to join the INB sessions, which were mostly closed to the public. However, some member states were opposed, and the INB split the difference, deciding that relevant **stakeholders can only join for a brief session in the morning.**”

## **GHF - Tense Discussions On Process & Way Forward: Pandemic Agreement Talks Set For An Uphill Climb to Consensus**

P Patnaik & N Sirohi; [Geneva Health Files](#);

**In-depth analysis of this week’s meeting.** Below a few excerpts to provide you with a flavour:

**“This was supposed to be a “reset”.** When WHO member states met this week for the tenth meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body, it was expected that they would analyse lessons learned from over two years of negotiations towards a new Pandemic Agreement and chart a way ahead to conclude these discussions. **While they had extensive discussions over two days along painfully familiar lines, it does not appear to be a reset in the process. Key areas of disagreement on the involvement of experts in these negotiations, and the nature of informal sessions, bogged down these discussions – concerns that have been repeatedly raised over the last two years.** After a somewhat optimistic start to the meeting when negotiators and key stakeholders were eager to make a fresh start, **familiar arguments showed continued distrust among countries.** This quickly came to the surface in the course of this meeting...”

“... While the **positive momentum generated by the IHR track of negotiations** will surely spill over into the negotiations for a Pandemic Agreement, **the gulf that countries would need to bridge on reaching consensus also became obvious. As many as 20 articles are still open – which also happen to be the toughest topics on the table...**”

- **Re participation of relevant stakeholders:**

“Earlier this year in May 2024, Brazil had proposed that relevant stakeholders be invited to all INB sessions. While sources indicated that many countries were in favor of an increased level of transparency in the proceedings, three countries made statements expressing their reservations including China, Russia and Nigeria. It is understood that other large developing countries including India are also not in favor of proposal to expand participation of NSAs. **The concerns ranged from the practicalities of accommodating numerous NSAs in these discussions, to the kinds of NSAs who will end up getting access.** It was highlighted that only well-funded actors, primarily from developed countries, can afford to participate. A suggestion to allow for virtual participation for all NSAs was not really addressed. There were also concerns of letting the private sector (some private sector affiliated organizations are also designated as Non-State Actors), to witness and inform drafting group sessions. Emphasis was placed on these negotiations as being member-state led.”

- “... There also seems to be a **conflation of two different considerations in these discussions.** On the one hand, is the **objective of widening the scope of participation of civil society organizations and other stakeholders** to push for greater transparency accountability and to inform the negotiations. **On the other, expanding and formalising the role of experts in these negotiations....**”

## **TGH - Pandemic Agreement Talks Resume with Global Equity at Stake**

**S Moon;** <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/pandemic-agreement-talks-resume-global-equity-stake>

“**Progress has been made, but difficult issues need resolving** before a pandemic treaty can make the world safer and fairer.”

Especially the **establishment of a pandemic pathogen access and benefit-sharing system**, Suerie Moon argues.

Moon also discussed the **changed political dynamics, surprising point of convergence**, ... but admits that **deep divisions remain.**

And with an important PS: “...In addition, **the push to achieve consensus on the substantive issues before the World Health Assembly meeting meant that the INB spent too little time on the Pandemic Agreement's governance arrangements. WHO member states should consider including robust monitoring and accountability provisions** to ensure that the treaty has meaningful impact and amounts to more than beautiful words on paper.”

## More on PPPR

### University of Exeter – Intensive farming could raise risk of new pandemics

[Univ of Exeter - press release;](#)

**“Intensive livestock farming could raise the risk of new pandemics, [researchers have warned](#).** Industrialised farming is often thought to reduce the risk of zoonotic diseases (those transmitted from animals to humans) because of better control, biosecurity and separation of livestock. **The new study, led by the University of Exeter, examines the effect of social and economic factors – which are often overlooked in traditional assessments.** It finds that the **effects of intensifying agriculture “are at best uncertain and at worst may contribute to EID (emerging infectious disease) risk” ....”**

“The paper, published in **the journal *Royal Society Open Science***, is entitled: **[“Understanding the roles of economy and society in the relative risks of zoonosis emergence from livestock.”](#) “**

### Globalization & Health - How feasible is it to mobilize \$31 billion a year for pandemic preparedness and response? An economic growth modelling analysis

M Shahid, G Yamey et al ;

<https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-024-01058-4>

**“...The World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO) propose that low- and middle-income governments and donor countries should invest \$31.1 billion each year for PPR. **We analyse, based on the projected economic growth of countries between 2022 and 2027, how likely it is that low- and middle-income country governments and donors can mobilize the estimated funding.**”**

**“... Our analysis shows** that low-income countries would need to invest on average 37%, lower-middle income countries 9%, and upper-middle income countries 1%, of their total health spending on PPR each year under the constant scenario to meet the World Bank WHO targets. Donors would need to allocate on average 8% of their total ODA across all sectors to PPR each year to meet their target.”

Conclusions: **“The World Bank WHO targets for PPR will not be met unless low- and middle-income governments and donors spend a much higher share of their funding on PPR.** Even under optimistic growth scenarios, low-income and lower-middle income countries will require increased support from global health donors. The donor target cannot be met using the yearly increase in ODA under any scenario. If the country and donor targets are not met, the highest-impact health security measures need to be prioritized for funding. **Alternative sources of PPR financing could include global taxation (e.g., on financial transactions, carbon, or airline flights), cancelling debt, and addressing illicit financial flows....”**

## Mpox

### Lancet GH (Comment) Africa should research the long-term sequelae of mpox

Allan Komakech et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(24\)00288-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(24)00288-2/fulltext)

**“Responses by stakeholders, both local and international, to increases in mpox cases have primarily focused on immediate containment and treatment strategies. However, it is equally important to understand the long-term sequelae of mpox, particularly in Africa, which has the largest burden of the disease. Although the literature is scarce, our field experience and a few reports indicate that the long-term sequelae of mpox range from cutaneous to systemic complications...”**

**“... In light of the changing epidemiology of the monkeypox virus in Africa, including the emergence of sexual transmission in DR Congo, the cessation of smallpox vaccination since smallpox eradication, and the already-strained health systems, there is a crucial need for up-to-date information regarding the long-term sequelae of mpox to help provide long-term care for survivors. This gap is a notable barrier to understanding the quality of life of people affected by mpox. ...”**

**“... Research priorities for the long-term sequelae of mpox in Africa should focus on three key areas...”**

And they conclude: **“... government and non-government actors, international organisations (such as WHO and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention), civil society, academic institutions, research consortia, and community-based organisations must recognise the need to intensify research on the long-term sequelae of mpox as part of a comprehensive approach to managing mpox in Africa....”**

## Bird flu

**Bird flu snapshot: As the number of infected dairy herds mount, so too does pessimism about driving H5N1 out of cows**

<https://www.statnews.com/2024/07/15/bird-flu-snapshot-h5n1-infected-herds/>

Analysis by H Branswell from early this week.

**Telegraph - The Liverpool vaccine factory preparing for a H5N1 bird flu pandemic**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/the-vaccine-factory-preparing-for-a-bird-flu-pandemic/>

**“Researchers at the vast facility describe the ‘pre-pandemic’ jabs being made there as a ‘first line of defence’.”**

**“... In a vast warehouse just off the M62 huge quantities of vaccine to protect against the deadly H5N1 influenza virus await shipment to continental Europe. The vaccine, made by the Australian-owned company CSL Seqirus (CSLS) at its main UK manufacturing plant in Speke, Liverpool, has been grown from virus samples taken from infected cattle in the US and has been purchased as a precaution...” “... Nigel Hilton, CSLS’s vice president of manufacturing and head of the Liverpool plant, describes the “pre-pandemic” jabs being made there as a “first line of defence”. “**

**“The first batches of the two-dose vaccine are on their way to Finland, which has bought enough for 10,000 people as part of a joint EU procurement of up to 40 million doses for 15 nations including France, Ireland and Portugal. Other EU countries can opt in at a time of their choosing...”**

**“... In the event that H5N1 breaks out of animal reservoirs such as poultry, cattle or mink to spread human to human, stockpiles of the jab could also be used as a stopgap to protect medics and other essential workers until an updated version becomes available. It’s why the US has ordered 4.8m doses of the pre-pandemic shot from CSLS’s American arm, while the UK put out a tender in mid June to build a similar precautionary stockpile here...”**

**“... If a human to human H5N1 pandemic does end up breaking out, CSL has contracts in place with the UKHSA and others requiring it to make fully matched vaccines available within 16 weeks or 112 days of the pandemic being called by the World Health Organization.....”**

And a few links:

- Axios - [Heat wave fans spread of avian flu](#)
- Reuters - [Colorado workers with bird flu toiled in heat, without effective protective gear](#)

## AMR

**Lancet GH (Editorial) – Navigating AMR with innovative diagnostics**

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(24\)00285-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(24)00285-7/fulltext)

**“... Overuse (including empirical use) or misuse of antibiotics is thought to be the greatest modifiable driver of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) worldwide. In 2014, after a public vote on the choice of focus, the UK innovation agency Nesta launched a new £8 million [Longitude Prize for AMR](#). This month, the winner was finally announced. The PA-100 AST System (Sysmex Astrego, Uppsala, Sweden) passed all seven mandatory judging criteria (ie, needed, accurate, affordable, rapid, easy-to-use, scalable, and safe) after a 6-year appraisal process, adjudicated by an independent Prize Advisory Panel. .... However, despite its approval by the European Medicines Agency, the stated robustness of the device, and its relatively low need for maintenance, several hurdles lie in the way of roll-out of PA-100 to LMICs, and a presumed resultant decrease in inappropriate antibiotic use and reduced AMR.....”**

The editorial concludes: “... **Diagnostics must be brought into wider antibiotic stewardship and universal health coverage efforts, coupled with context-specific awareness campaigns.** ... .. In September, the UN General Assembly will hold its **second High-Level Meeting on AMR**. The [zero draft](#) of the associated political declaration rightly **couples antibiotics with diagnostics** in many of its clauses. **Let this be a year of diagnostic breakthroughs**—in more ways than one.....”

## Global Health Governance & Financing

### Gavi and Côte d'Ivoire commit to a successful programmatic and financial transition

<https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/gavi-and-cote-divoire-commit-successful-programmatic-and-financial-transition>

“Côte d’Ivoire commits to fully finance its routine immunisation programme over the next five years to ensure sustainability beyond Gavi support; **The country hosted a conference on transition and sustainable financing culminating in the adoption of the Abidjan Declaration by nine African countries.** The introduction of the second malaria vaccine to be rolled out in sub-Saharan Africa took place during a two-day visit by Gavi CEO Dr Sania Nishtar. In preparation for Côte d’Ivoire’s full transition in 2030, Gavi will contribute over US\$ 100 million with a focus on increasing vaccination coverage and reaching missed children.”

Re the **Abidjan Declaration**:

“... **The government of Côte d’Ivoire hosted the Ministerial Conference on Transition and Sustainable Financing, bringing Gavi countries from the sub-region together to share experiences, and discuss challenges and solutions for a successful transition.** The conference, in which the Gavi mission participated, resulted in the **adoption of the Abidjan Declaration** by the Ministers and Officials from Bénin, Congo, Côte d’Ivoire, Djibouti, Ghana, Mauritania, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe and Senegal, **which commits to successful transition from Gavi support by securing the financial resources needed to protect and sustain programmatic achievements....”**

### Devex - UK to spend aid budget on helping EU cut asylum-seeker arrivals

<https://www.devex.com/news/uk-to-spend-aid-budget-on-helping-eu-cut-asylum-seeker-arrivals-107984>

“New Foreign Secretary David Lammy says curbing migration is Europe's key dilemma — and “combined aid budgets” are part of the solution.”

“The United Kingdom plans to use its aid budget to help the [European Union](#) cut the number of asylum-seekers arriving from Africa, in the first development policy shift made by its [new Labour government](#)....”

## BMJ Editorial - How should the new government rebuild the UK's reputation in global health?

P Baker, M Khan & C Wenham; <https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q1551>

**“Streamline priorities, forge respectful partnerships, and drive multilateral reform.”**

They list three critical challenges.

**“The first is the long term challenge of domestic health expenditure by low and middle income countries being insufficient to meet health needs.** The problem is now deteriorating because of low growth and high debt repayments, and stagnant aid budgets. Over three billion people now live in countries which spend more on debt interest payments than they do on health or education. This lack of finances makes the **second challenge** much harder—**the increasing reality of truly global threats such as climate change, pandemics, antimicrobial resistance, and conflict.** All are on the rise and require global cooperation, which is in short supply. Indeed, **the third challenge is a breakdown in confidence in global health multilateral organisations,** which was highlighted by the failure to achieve equitable covid-19 vaccine roll-out. This loss of confidence had longer term roots, stemming from the weakening role of the World Health Organization, with increasing presence of other better resourced and more agile actors, and concerns about current donor financing arrangements undermining national systems. **Underpinning all three challenges are stark health inequalities and power imbalances in global health.”**

**The authors conclude, after zooming on Labour’s manifesto and how it could be implemented :**  
**“The Labour Party takes over a UK global health agenda that is smaller in reputation and resources than it once was. To deliver on its manifesto and revive the UK’s reputation the new government will need to be decisive, prioritise its bilateral and multilateral expenditure, invest in health systems, and put money and political capital behind multilateral reform and equitable partnerships.”**

### Open Statement by Oxfam & 70+ organisations: Stop spending development funds on for-profit private health care providers

<https://phmovement.org/stop-spending-development-funds-profit-private-healthcare-providers>

**“Oxfam & 70+ organisations call on Development Finance institutions to stop spending development funds on for-profit private healthcare providers** that are: Increasing inequality; Undermining national public healthcare; In some cases committing human rights abuses.”

**“Mounting evidence shows that this funding is going to expensive out-of-reach private hospitals and clinics in low- and middle-income countries that are widening healthcare inequalities, exacerbating poverty and gender-based discrimination and violating human rights.** Far from advancing progress towards Universal Health Coverage as governments have committed, this form of development finance is undermining it....”

## Publish What You Fund - Aid Transparency Index 2024

[https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/app/uploads/dlm\\_uploads/2024/07/Aid-Transparency-Index-2024.pdf](https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/app/uploads/dlm_uploads/2024/07/Aid-Transparency-Index-2024.pdf)

“The Aid Transparency Index has tracked the transparency of the largest international aid organisations over the last 12 years. Results from the Index have shown an incremental but persistent increase in the quality of aid data published by these organisations. The 2024 Aid Transparency Index has recorded its highest ever scores, showing a continuation of this trend. The work, however, is not finished. Some publishers have effectively stagnated in their performance in the Index, and some organizations have dropped, sometimes significantly.”

With results from 50 donors assessed.

- Related link: [Gavi receives top marks for aid transparency fifth year in a row](#)

## Global Financing Facility Governing bodies take decisions to help accelerate progress on delivering the current strategy and guide design of next strategy

<https://www.globalfinancingfacility.org/news/governance-announcement/gff-governing-bodies-take-decisions-help-accelerate-progress>

(3 July) “The Global Financing Facility’s (GFF) governing bodies—Investors Group (IG) and Trust Fund Committee (TFC)—met this past week to agree on near-term priorities as the GFF enters the final stage of its 2021–25 strategic plan. Priorities were agreed taking into account the fiscal constraints faced by many countries and stagnating progress on the health of women and youth in countries with the highest maternal and child mortality and adolescent pregnancy rates. The governing bodies also discussed the preparation underway to inform for the next strategy period as well as ongoing work to improve alignment and collaboration across the health ecosystem globally and in countries, in line with the Lusaka Agenda.”

The main outcomes and decision points from the meetings are as follows:...

Among others: “**Endorsement of the GFF Climate and Health approach:** Integrating a targeted climate and health approach into the current strategy will focus on addressing the specific needs and considerations of women, children and adolescents, leveraging the GFF’s country-led operating model and work with the World Bank’s Health, Nutrition and Population (HNP) Global Practice and Climate Group.....”

## Foreign Affairs – Debt Is Dragging Down the Developing World

M Suzman; [https://www.foreignaffairs.com/africa/debt-dragging-down-developing-world?utm\\_source=twitter\\_posts&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=tw\\_daily\\_soc](https://www.foreignaffairs.com/africa/debt-dragging-down-developing-world?utm_source=twitter_posts&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=tw_daily_soc)

“How to End the Current Crisis—and Avoid the Next One.” Well, at least according to the Gates Foundation : ) **Op-ed clearly written with the IDA21 replenishment in mind.**

A few chunks:

“As governments divert more and more resources toward servicing an unmanageable debt burden, they have fewer funds available for investments that can save and improve lives. **The total value of interest payments made by the world’s 75 poorest countries, more than half of which are in Africa, has quadrupled over the past decade. In 2024, these countries will have to spend more than \$185 billion, which amounts to roughly 7.5 percent of their combined GDP, to service their debts.** According to the World Bank, **that’s more than what they spend annually on health, education, and infrastructure together.”**

“... **To help low-income countries out of the debt crisis and to restore global growth, wealthy governments should increase their funding for the World Bank’s affordable financing programs and build on earlier debt-relief efforts, such as those coordinated by the G-20, aimed at the poorest countries.** Together, world leaders have the power to write a new story—one that ends in a positive cycle of development, not in a decade of lost opportunity for the 1.5 billion people who call Africa home..... **... The Gates Foundation has long advocated for reforms to the global financial system to allow cheaper financing for the countries that need it most....”**

“... **Financial decision-makers have opportunities to do better at the upcoming meetings of the United Nations, the IMF, the World Bank, and the G-20.** Any solutions they consider should prioritize making low-cost capital available to those countries that cannot access money in any other way. **One of the best steps would be to generously fund the World Bank’s International Development Association. ....”**

“... **Even if donations to IDA increase, however, the countries that receive funds from the bank will continue to struggle without large-scale debt relief.** The **first step to make that relief possible is to reform the G-20’s Common Framework.** Lenders have so far failed to agree on how to share the costs of debt relief, and it is time for them to recognize that procedures designed for the world of 20 years ago—the last time they dealt with debt crises in many countries at once—need to be refreshed. Some potential fixes are already on the table. A group of African finance ministers, for example, has proposed a reform that would bring private-sector creditors into the debt-restructuring process at an earlier stage and crack down on vulture funds that profit from debt distress. **International finance institutions also need to start thinking about debt crises differently....”**

- PS: **tweet from Chris Blattman** re this viewpoint from Suzman:

“**A Gates Foundation style post, full of decent economics and noble humanitarianism, but the new anti-politics machine.** There will be a likely be a debt crisis in several African countries and it’s better to get ahead of it. But nowhere is it implied that there are deep political problems at root, and few are solved. The war in Ethiopia is treated as something that just happened to it, alongside locusts. Several African leaders are quoted saying “we ought to spent on better things in future” without any thought to actual incentives, and how the structure of debt relief and aid can address them.”

- And another read related to the IDA21 replenishment: **CGD (blog) - [How the G7 Can Meet IDA’s Replenishment Goal Without Any Additional Spend, and Germany Can Lead the Way](#)** (by I Mitchell et al.

“.... **In this blog, I argue that the G7 can and should ensure the IDA replenishment goal is met by reorganising existing aid budgets: reducing the inefficient use of grants to upper-middle income countries; and reallocating some spend channelled restrictively through multilaterals (“multi-bi”).**

We identify at least \$13 billion per year that can be reallocated (\$6.6 billion excluding the US); much more than the \$2-5 billion per year increase sought for IDA. **Germany has the most potential to drive this change**, and it would fit with its government’s calls to ensure their development budget is spent effectively and impactfully.....”

## Bloomberg - IMF to Push G-20 for Plan to Lower Debt Costs for Poor Countries and Dodge Defaults

[Yahoo](#);

“The International Monetary Fund is seeking to rally Group of 20 nations around a new effort to help poor countries reduce debt burdens, avoid defaults and stabilize their economies. While the plan is at an early stage, it could encompass re-profiling of existing loans, debt swaps, and credit guarantees that would help lower costs, Ceyla Pazarbasioglu — head of the fund’s powerful Strategy, Policy and Review Department — told reporters at a briefing in Washington on Wednesday. The broad idea is to provide countries “a menu of options and we can decide jointly with them what suits them,” she said. “One size doesn’t fit all.” ...”

## Global Fund - Request for Information: Global Fund and Gavi Joint Initiative to Expand the Evaluation Supplier Pool

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/updates/2024/2024-07-11-rfi-global-fund-gavi-joint-initiative-expand-evaluation-supplier-pool/>

More and more ‘synergies’ it appears.... “The Global Fund and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, in collaboration with the Global Financing Facility (GFF), are embarking on a joint initiative through this request for information (RFI) to identify qualified evaluation service providers based or headquartered in eligible countries in which the Global Fund, Gavi and GFF work, to address the barriers to working with these organizations on future evaluations....”

## CGD (blog) - Is There Any Hope for Bipartisan Cooperation on Aid in 2025?

Charles Kenny; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/there-any-hope-bipartisan-cooperation-aid-2025>

Possible areas: **advancing localization, country focus** (“ It would be great to see bipartisan efforts to focus grant resources in particular where they’ll have the greatest impact—in the poorest countries.”), **sovereign lending, MCC reform, fighting malaria** (“ PEPFAR, the US initiative to provide HIV drugs, has [transformed the battle against AIDS worldwide](#). A similar bipartisan initiative could achieve as much with malaria.... “) and **transparency**.

Interesting blog. Nevertheless, best of luck with that ‘bipartisan cooperation on aid’, Charles 😊.

## UNICEF expands cooperation with China on health services and digital education for children worldwide

<https://reliefweb.int/report/world/unicef-expands-cooperation-china-health-services-and-digital-education-children-worldwide-enzh>

**“United Nations Assistant Secretary-General, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Ted Chaiban led a series of engagements recently to build UNICEF’s cooperation with partners in China, with a focus on providing children in humanitarian situations and other developing countries with high-quality services and supplies.”**

Among others: **“... On 15 July, Mr. Chaiban signed a memorandum of understanding on behalf of UNICEF with the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC). Under the agreement, both parties will leverage their resources to strengthen the primary health care system in Africa, especially at the community level. Further, under the agreement, UNICEF, China CDC and Africa CDC – a health agency of the African Union – will collaborate to improve the surveillance, prevention and control of infectious diseases in African countries, as well the evaluation and validation of public health products and services.....”**

### **CGD (Policy Paper) - Health Taxes in the Polycrisis Era**

K Klemperer & P Baker; <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/health-taxes-polycrisis-era>

**“In 2019, the Task Force on Fiscal Policy for Health concluded that taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverages were a highly effective but greatly underused policy tool to reduce consumption, save lives, and raise domestic resources. The Task Force estimated that if all countries increased their excise taxes to raise prices by 50 percent, over 50 million premature deaths could be averted worldwide over the next 50 years while raising over USD 20 trillion of additional revenue. Since the Task Force first convened, the world has faced a “polycrisis,” including a global pandemic, an economic recession, and the outbreak of wars in Europe and the Middle East. Against this backdrop, the world has also experienced prolonged health and fiscal crises. Health systems, weakened by the COVID-19 pandemic, lack sufficient financing to rebuild and respond to the surging non-communicable diseases epidemic caused by uncontrolled risk factors such as tobacco, alcohol, and sugar consumption. Opportunities to raise domestic resources are limited and debt burdens have squeezed budgets. The period from 2019 to 2027 risks becoming a “lost decade” for health and social policies, with 110 countries facing little prospect of any ability to raise government revenues beyond current levels. In this paper, we describe the current health and fiscal crises and review the contribution that health taxes could make in turning around this dire situation. We conclude that taxes on tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverages are an ideal policy solution—good for the budget and good for health. These taxes are relatively quick to implement, and, unlike other taxes, do not put economic growth at risk—a vital benefit in the current era.”**

- Related CGD blog - [Health Taxes Are an Ideal Policy Solution for the Polycrisis Era](#)

A few quotes & excerpts from the blog:

**“Already, the five leading NCDs [cost more than USD 2 trillion per year](#), globally.”**

**“... Yet, despite the compelling arguments in their favour, health taxes have been underutilised as a tool: [progress implementing them has stalled](#) since 2019, the rates are set too low, and the taxes themselves have been undermined by inflation....”**

**“At CGD, we have been working with Bloomberg Philanthropies to reconvene the high-level [Task Force on Fiscal Policy for Health](#). Co-chaired by Michael Bloomberg, Larry Summers, and Mia**

**Mottley**, the task force includes global experts and nine current or former ministers and prime ministers, representing all six WHO regions of the world. Stay tuned for **the task force report coming this September**, which will provide **rigorous evidence-based recommendations on how the world can regain momentum on health taxes ahead of the [High-Level Meeting on NCDs](#) at next year's United Nations General Assembly.**"

## HRW - Kenya/IMF: Align Economic Reform with Rights

[HRW](#);

**"Strengthen Social Contract to Address Root Causes of Protester Anger."**

**"The Kenyan government and International Monetary Fund should work together to ensure that the IMF program and its implementation align with human rights, Human Rights Watch said today. The focus should be on progressive revenue generation and accountability over public funds..."**

## UHC

### TGH - South Africa's Health-Care Reform in Limbo Following Election

Linda Nordling; <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/south-africas-health-care-reform-limbo-following-election>

**"African National Congress's loss imperils the new National Health Insurance law and its financing of public health care."**

**"The election outcome is likely to pose challenges to the implementation of this new National Health Insurance (NHI) law, especially given that the ANC now relies on political allies—some of which oppose the law—to govern. .... with just four of the 11 parties that make up Ramaphosa's coalition government backing the NHI in their pre-election manifestos, and with legal challenges against the law under way, experts believe that the NHI faces an uncertain future. ..."**

**"We now have a dramatically different political reality," says Helen Schneider**, who holds a chair in health governance at the University of the Western Cape. "We can expect action on a range of fronts, but the direction is very uncertain." ...."

Also with the views of **Vishal Brijlal**, senior country advisor for the Clinton Health Access Initiative, and **Anja Smith**, a development economics based at Stellenbosch University and who has studied the NHI.

## Run-up to AIDS conference in Munich (22-26 July)

### Visa disaster looming ahead of International AIDS Conference in Munich

<https://www.aidshilfe.de/meldung/visa-disaster-looming-ahead-international-aids-conference-munich>

“Delays in visa processing at German embassies put the participation of people from countries of the global South and of people from vulnerable communities in jeopardy. **Deutsche Aidshilfe is now calling for political action.**”

- Update, via **tweet Bijan Frederic Farnoudi**:

“Dear Madhu Pai, **fortunately the situation is different than depicted.** From IAS scholarship recipients and others we know that 77% of 693 individuals have obtained their visas, 14% are still pending, and 9% have been denied. Most visas granted to Nigeria, Kenya and Zimbabwe.”

See also [Visas Denied to Many HIV Activists in Run-Up to 2024 International AIDS Conference](#) (The Body)

PS: some activists have also called for a boycott (of a conference taking place in Germany) altogether – linked to Gaza. (see section ‘Tweets’)

### HPW - Despite Advances in HIV Science, Progress is Threatened by ‘Inaction’

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/despite-advances-in-hiv-science-progress-is-threatened-by-inaction/>

“**On the eve of the international AIDS conference in Munich, scientists report that another person has been cured of AIDS via a stem cell transplant and impressive success in HIV prevention via trials of long-action injectable pre-exposure medication – yet funding cuts threaten global HIV goals.**”

“**UNAIDS economist Erik Lamontagne said that HIV could cost low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) over \$10,000 per person by 2050**, with almost 35 million new HIV acquisitions and nearly 18 million AIDS-related deaths between 2021 and 2050 **without “bold action”**. The **projections are based on the failure of 114 key LMICs to meet the “95-95-95” targets** – 95% of people who are living with HIV knowing their HIV status, 95% of these people on antiretroviral treatment, and 95% of those on treatment being virally suppressed....”

### TGH - The PEPFAR Files: Who Tried to End the Lifesaving HIV Program?

Emily Bass; <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/pepfar-files-who-tried-end-lifesaving-hiv-program>

“**The first in a three-part series explores why the popular global health program is under threat.**”

A few chunks:

**“... This time, the program received a one-year reauthorization stashed in the fine print of a spending bill. The shift has major implications for the program's [current mission](#) to accelerate the response to "end the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a public health threat by 2030, while sustainably strengthening public health systems to create a healthier, safer, and more secure world."**

**With a shortened timeline, PEPFAR no longer sends a clear signal that the U.S. government is serious about ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat to the governments in its partner countries.** Countries could default to more modest investments or, worse, scale back programs for some populations at the highest risk of HIV. In many countries where PEPFAR operates, it is in programs for "key populations," including LGBTQ+ individuals, sex workers, and people who use drugs. PEPFAR's DREAMS (Determined, Resilient, Empowered, AIDS-free, Mentored, and Safe) program has funded the layering of social, structural behavioral, and biomedical resources for adolescent girls and young women at the highest risk of HIV. ....”

**“... Next week, thousands of people working on HIV gather in Munich, Germany for the twenty-fifth [International AIDS Conference](#). Hallway chatter will undoubtedly circle around the health of PEPFAR, the implications of President Biden's [flat-funding request for the program for fiscal year 2025](#), and the future of U.S. involvement in global health after the November elections. To inform these crucial conversations—and broader discussions about the HIV response—Think Global Health has spent several months investigating how PEPFAR came to be in its current state. ...”**

We asked more than a dozen scientists, clinicians, advocates, and current and former PEPFAR staffers to share their analysis of what has happened to PEPFAR in recent months. Across conversations and careful review of the U.S. government's paper trail on its own programs, **we put together a case file on the players who had the means, motive, and opportunity to put PEPFAR in such critical condition. ...”**

**“... The reauthorization debacle has made discussing the text of the legislation profoundly risky. Opening the text to examine its scope, focal areas, and approaches offers an opportunity to enshrine new conservative provisions into the law.** This could include the "global gag rule" on using U.S. foreign assistance funding to speak about, refer for, provide or advocate for abortion that every Republican president since Ronald Reagan has enacted via presidential memorandum, and which President Donald Trump expanded to include PEPFAR—and other global health funding—in 2017. On taking office, Biden reversed the rule. ...”

**“... PEPFAR is in critical condition and badly needs resuscitating via a five-year reauthorization. But it doesn't need to be the same program that it was 10, five, or even two years ago.** HIV/AIDS is ongoing and severe in many communities and countries, particularly key populations. At least one of the people we spoke with said that PEPFAR and the broader AIDS fight had been undermined by promises that investing more money now would lead to the "control" or "end" of the epidemic. **Even with this important consideration, the program needs to turn—and has embarked on a process of turning—greater control and leadership over to the countries and communities where it works. This process is undermined by recent events. The fear that legislators on the left or the right might seek to add new text to the authorizing legislation means that all parties invested in the program's future have embraced a "clean" reauthorization, which carries forward the prior text.** This preserves the program at the cost of affording PEPFAR the opportunity to change again, evolving with intention and strategy to meet the needs of the current HIV pandemic and other infectious disease threats. ...”

## HPW - By 2035, Most People Living With HIV Will Also Have a Chronic Disease

Katie Dain et al ; <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/by-2035-most-people-living-with-hiv-will-also-have-a-chronic-disease/>

**“By 2035, nearly three quarters of the 40 million people living with HIV worldwide will be living with one or more chronic disease, also referred to as noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). While there are encouraging examples of integrated HIV and NCD healthcare delivery, this is yet to become the norm in low- and middle-income countries. “**

**“As stakeholders convene for the 25th International AIDS Conference next week in Munich, more attention should be focused on this theme – and on scaling up the bright lights of success seen in parts of East Africa as well as India. People living with HIV face the same health challenges as everyone else....”**

## Malaria

### Science (Policy Forum) - Artemisinin-resistant malaria in Africa demands urgent action

M Dhorda et al ; <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.adp5137>

**“Investment in community health workers is essential.”**

**“...Unfortunately, artemisinin resistance (ART-R) has emerged in multiple locations in Africa, compromising the efficacy of ACTs. In the past, the spread of antimalarial resistance resulted in millions of avoidable deaths. Without radical action, this history will repeat itself. Success in containing ART-R in the Greater Mekong Subregion in Asia, where ART-R was first reported in 2008, suggests that a **multipronged approach is needed in East Africa** to reduce and interrupt malaria transmission permanently.”**

## SRHR

### Nature Medicine (World View) - Women’s health is on the ballot in 2024

Sophie Harman; <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-024-03116-1>

**“Politics affects women’s health, from abortion access to funding for health systems, and voters should choose their politicians accordingly.” “More than 80 countries are going to the polls this year and women’s health is on the ballot....”**

## Guardian - MPs in the Gambia vote to uphold ban on female genital mutilation

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/article/2024/jul/15/mps-the-gambia-vote-uphold-ban-on-female-genital-mutilation-fgm>

“Campaigners applaud decision not to repeal law in west African country with one of the highest rates of FGM.”

- Related: [UN News – The Gambia: UN salutes ‘monumental achievement’ as lawmakers uphold FGM ban](#)

Five senior UN officials have welcomed the decision by The Gambia to uphold its ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), calling it a critical win for women’s and girls’ rights.

“Following the vote today by the National Assembly of The Gambia, we commend the country’s decision to uphold the ban on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), reaffirming its commitments to human rights, gender equality, and protecting the health and well-being of girls and women,” the UN officials said in a [joint statement](#). .... The statement was issued by Catherine Russell, Executive Director of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF); Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA); Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO); Sima Bahous, Executive Director of UN Women, and Volker Türk. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights. Separately, UN Deputy Secretary-General [Amina Mohammed](#) also hailed the decision in [a post](#) on social media.....”

- See also HPW – [Global Leaders Praise Gambia’s Decision to Uphold Ban on Female Genital Mutilation](#)

## The Conversation - Gender apartheid: oppression of women should be made a crime against humanity – feminist academic explains why

P Andrews; <https://theconversation.com/gender-apartheid-oppression-of-women-should-be-made-a-crime-against-humanity-feminist-academic-explains-why-234410>

“Crimes against humanity are occurring with impunity around the globe; from [Myanmar](#) to [Sudan](#), [Ukraine](#) and elsewhere. And yet, unlike international treaties for the crimes of [genocide](#), [torture](#), [apartheid](#) and [forced disappearances](#), **there isn’t a treaty specific to crimes against humanity. That lack is now being remedied. The International Law Commission, a UN expert body, has submitted draft articles for a treaty to the UN’s Sixth Committee. This is the main forum for considering legal questions in the UN General Assembly.** The intention is to give countries more legal tools to hold accountable those who commit crimes against humanity. It is expected that the treaty process will conclude in October 2024.”

“The new treaty may include special protection for women. A group of women activists is [lobbying the committee](#) to consider including in the treaty a new definition aimed at protecting women against all forms of oppression. They are advocating for a definition of this discrimination as “gender apartheid”. The idea is that it would track [the definition of racial apartheid](#) by replacing the word “race” with “gender” ....”

“... As an academic who has researched and written extensively on racial and gender equality, I **fully support broadening the definition of the crime of apartheid to include gender**. I believe this is necessary given the persistence and ubiquity of structural discrimination and violence against women in the world....”

### Lancet Editorial - The fertility industry: profiting from vulnerability

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01484-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01484-3/fulltext)

**“Despite major advances in securing sexual and reproductive rights globally, one aspect is continually neglected: infertility.** Evolving gender norms and financial precariousness have led to delayed childbearing, which increases infertility in both males and females. An estimated one in six people are affected. However, there is insufficient awareness about fertility decline, the risk factors, and viable treatments for infertility. **Assisted reproductive technologies (ARTs)**, particularly in-vitro fertilisation (IVF), help many. Almost 50 years after the birth of the first baby conceived by IVF was reported in The Lancet, this method is used in 9% of births in some high-income countries. Such advances have enabled millions to have children. However, **the fertility sector has now spawned an entire industry that risks exacerbating rather than alleviating the psychological toll of infertility and does little to help reduce inequities in access to quality care.....”**

**“....Insufficient public funding and regulation alongside the high demand for fertility treatments have driven the commercialisation and financialisation of ARTs.** In the USA, about a third of IVF cycles are done through clinics affiliated with private-equity firms and PGT-A is more likely to be part of IVF treatment in a private equity-affiliated clinic than elsewhere. The money to be made is staggering. **The global fertility market was valued at US\$34.7 billion in 2023 and is projected to grow to 62.8 billion in just 10 years....”** “The high costs of ART treatments to patients have also created staggering global inequities in access, despite similar levels of infertility across the world. **In more than half of low-income and middle-income countries assessed in a systematic review, the direct cost for one ART cycle was higher than the average annual gross domestic product per capita. ...”**

**“This situation cannot continue.** People must be empowered with knowledge about risk factors for infertility and treatments. Better access is needed to effective and safe patient-centred and evidence-based treatments. **A profit-driven fertility industry cannot continue to prey on the vulnerabilities of people who desperately hope to have children.”**

## Human Resources for Health

### BMJ Collection - Gender equality in the health workforce

<https://www.bmj.com/collections/gender-equality-health-workforce>

**“..... In this BMJ collection, a collaboration with Global Health 50/50, the Africa Population and Health Research Centre, and the International Center for Research on Women, a special focus on India and Kenya is undertaken, with new evidence and analysis considering a range of factors driving equality of opportunity for women’s health careers.** A review of inequalities in the health workforces in both countries is complemented by new analysis of health organisations, available

laws and policies that promote (or hinder) women's equality in the workforce, and by the views of women working in the health sector. With application for India and Kenya, as well as other geographies worldwide, this collection adopts a multidisciplinary lens to highlight the role of law in pushing for organisational change, shows the impact of gendered occupational segregation on career choices, and reveals the importance of social norms for career outcomes."

Check out, among others:

- [BMJ Analysis - Strengthening systems of accountability for women's leadership in the health sector](#)

**"Accountability can improve equal opportunities for women's career progression and it must be strengthened in the health sector, argue Kent Buse and colleagues."**

"... Our analysis, part of a BMJ collection on gender equality in the health workforce, focuses on India and Kenya and uses a rights based framework to assess accountability (box 1). We chose these countries because they are of particular interest to the funder of our commissioned research, but **the performance of and insights from India and Kenya have lessons for other settings wishing to improve accountability for women's leadership. Our examples highlight how accountability has been used to promote equal opportunities for women's careers and how it could be used to further their progress to formal leadership, including in the health sector...."**

- [Legislation for advancing women's leadership in the health sector in India and Kenya: a 'law cube' approach to identify ways to strengthen legal environments for gender equality](#)

Authors **"... adapted the World Bank's Women, Business and Law framework of legal domains relevant to gender equality in the workplace and applied a 'law cube' to analyse the comprehensiveness, accountability and equity and human rights considerations of 27 relevant statutes in India and 11 in Kenya that apply to people in formal employment within the health sector. We assessed those laws against 30 research-validated good practice measures across five legal domains: (1) pay; (2) workplace protections; (3) pensions; (4) care, family life and work-life balance; and (5) reproductive rights...."**

But do have a look at the whole collection!

## Planetary Health

### **BMJ Opinion - Evidence must guide policy and practice towards health centred and equitable climate solutions**

S Sharpe, A Haines et al; <https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q1417>

**"From 9 to 12 June, the What Works Climate Solutions Summit brought together scientists, policymakers, funders, and implementers with the aim of advancing evidence on climate solutions to inform policy and upcoming climate change assessments such as the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)'s 7th assessment report. The central thread connecting the diverse**

presentations, panels, and sessions **was the question of “what works” in policies to adapt to or mitigate climate change and how best to synthesise the rapidly growing body of evidence on the effectiveness of actions to tackle climate change.”**

**“Health was a prominent theme of the summit. “**

Authors **conclude:** “ As the world faces complex problems and growing uncertainty, rigorous evidence can help bring coherence and guide policy and practice towards a healthier, more sustainable future. Transdisciplinary, intersectoral collaboration on research is needed and should be integrated with Indigenous knowledge, if we are to deliver equitable climate solutions that trigger transformative change. Jan Minx of the Mercator Research Institute on Global Commons and Climate Change, who led the summit coordinating team, proposed that **the event should be “a starting point for building a global community” to create the evidence base needed for action.** This community of researchers, funders, decision makers and civil society, must now **work together to synthesise and use the best available evidence, and generate new insights to understand and deliver what works for both climate and health.”**

## **Global Health Now - ‘Heat Poverty’: A Growing Threat in India**

C Kapoor; <https://globalhealthnow.org/2024-07/heat-poverty-growing-threat-india>

**“Increasingly extreme heatwaves are forcing India’s most impoverished people into heat poverty as they borrow large sums to buy air conditioners for their homes.”**

“The air conditioners may make life bearable as temperatures have reached as high as 52°C (126°F) this year, but they are sharply increasing personal debt while exacerbating the “urban heat island” effect in crowded cities. .... **Air conditioner sales are soaring—especially in Delhi. The market for air conditioners is estimated to grow by US\$5 billion by 2028. A majority of new air conditioners are bought on equated monthly installments that pay off loans within a given time period or other credit schemes.** The high number of personal loans since last year forced the Reserve Bank of India to caution lenders. ...”

## **Commercial determinants of health**

**WHO - Supporting member states in reaching informed decision-making on engaging with private sector entities for the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases: a practical tool**

<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/378209>

**“...WHO developed the Decision-making tool for the consideration of Member States in order to guide them through making informed decisions before engaging with private sector entities for the prevention and control of NCDs.** This tool offers a systematic methodology for assessing, analysing and reaching a decision on whether or not to engage with private sector entities to complement or enhance efforts of the public sector in addressing the prevention and control of NCDs. The guidance provided in this document is expected to support Member States in analysing

critical elements for decisionmaking when considering collaboration with private sector entities or where governments are required to engage with industry in the policy process for measures designed to prevent and control NCDs. **The Decision-making tool promotes a principles-based approach in engagements with private sector entities** so that credibility, integrity and sound government processes are ensured and protected. “

With **three core principles**: sustainable and responsible practices; added value to the NCD response; accountable and transparent governance.

“...The tool was designed to be practical and applicable across diverse contexts and scenarios, and throughout the various phases of an engagement cycle (i.e. planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation). **The process consists of three phases, comprising a total of 10 steps that aim to guide users to reach informed decisions on engagement with private sector entities.....”**

## Road safety in Africa

### WHO Afro - Status report road safety in the WHO Afro region 2023

<https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/378194/9789290343356-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y#RoadSafety>

Related **tweet Etienne Krug**: “While 1/3 of countries in Africa are reducing road traffic deaths, Africa still has highest road traffic fatality rate in the world, at 19.4 deaths per 100 000 population.”

- See also **BMJ News - [Road safety: Rise in deaths in Africa reflects inadequate laws and enforcement, WHO finds](#)**

“Africa has a disproportionately high burden of road traffic deaths when compared with the rest of the world, with nearly 250 000 lives lost on the continent’s roads in 2021—its highest number in the past decade, show figures from the World Health Organization. **From 2010 to 2021, deaths from road traffic incidents in Africa increased by 17%**, showed data collected from 45 of 47 countries, **which compares with a 5% decrease worldwide**, said WHO’s report on road safety in Africa. The rise threatens the region’s efforts to halve the number of road deaths and injuries by 2030 under target 3.6 of the sustainable development goals.....”

## Access to medicines, vaccines & other technologies

**Unitaid (report) - The untold story of dolutegravir: When climate impact goes hand-in-hand with access to better treatments**

<https://unitaid.org/assets/The-untold-story-of-dolutegravir-When-climate-impact-goes-hand-in-hand-with-access-to-better-treatments.pdf>

**“This report demonstrates how the introduction of a single medicine, DTG, has unintentionally led to a substantial reduction of CO2 e emissions of HIV treatment worldwide ... .. It also points to a massive and largely untapped potential: by proactively managing the choice of health products, their design, and their manufacturing and distribution processes, we can contribute to a much greener and ultimately net-zero health sector. Moreover, the example of DTG shows that decarbonization of health supply chains and equitable access to health are not mutually exclusive – they can even reinforce each other....”**

**“... despite Unitaïd’s intense involvement in the transition to DTG-( dolutegravir-based regimen”) based treatment for nearly a decade, there is a question we never asked ourselves: how does the DTG regimen compare to the previous EFV (“efavirenz-based regimen”)- based treatments in terms of carbon emissions? This paper attempts to answer this question for the first time and explores the implications for the future management of HIV treatment and health interventions. ....”**

**... The analysis revealed that EFV is significantly more emissive than DTG by a factor of 2.6. This is primarily driven by the larger amount of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) in EFV (1200mg across all three chemicals) compared to DTG (650mg across all three chemicals)... .. When evaluating the impact on worldwide emissions, the shift in treatment turns out to have made a drastic difference, as shown in Figure 3. It is estimated that the transition from EFV to DTG resulted in a decrease of annual emissions from HIV treatment by 3.4 million tons of CO2 by 2027, with a cumulative difference of 26 million tons over the decade 2017-2027. This is equivalent to having removed the full CO2 emissions of the city of Geneva over the same 10-year period...”**

- Coverage via HPW – [World’s Leading HIV Drug Reduces Carbon Emissions by 26 Million Tons In Comparison to Predecessor](#)

**“This is the first report to analyze the environmental impacts of a single widely used medicine compared to its alternative. It builds on Unitaïd’s From milligrams to megatons report last year which analyzed the climate and nature assessment of 10 key public health products in its portfolio....”**

PS: **“... Health sector’s carbon emissions stand at roughly 5% of the global carbon emissions and is larger than the emissions of many big countries. ... Some 50-70% of the healthcare sector’s emissions comes from supply chains, according to various estimates, said Bretin (Director of Unitaïd’s Results and Climate Team). In the case of HIV treatment, 90% of the emissions come from the upstream part of the manufacturing process, he said....”**

## HPW - Côte d’Ivoire Rolls Out New Malaria Vaccine

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/cote-divoire-rolls-out-new-malaria-vaccine/>

**“Côte d’Ivoire became the first country to roll out the new R21/Matrix-M vaccine with the first child vaccinated in Abidjan on Monday. The vaccine, co-developed by the University of Oxford and Serum Institute of India (SII), was granted prequalification status by the World Health Organization (WHO) in December last year....”**

**“This follows the approval of the malaria vaccine, RTS,S. Both vaccines are expected to have a huge public health impact. The R21/Matrix-M vaccine has also been authorised by Ghana, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, and the Central African Republic. Gavi, WHO, UNICEF, the Global Fund and others**

**are working with countries on their plans for vaccine roll out** as part of holistic malaria control and prevention plans. **Fifteen African countries are expected to introduce malaria vaccines with Gavi support in 2024, and countries plan to reach around 6.6 million children with the malaria vaccine in 2024 and 2025.** Gavi and partners are working with more than 30 African countries that have expressed interest in introducing the malaria vaccine....”

**Stat - As GLP-1 sales surge, insulin users fear Novo Nordisk and Eli Lilly will move on without them**

<https://www.statnews.com/2024/07/17/insulin-novo-nordisk-eli-lilly-weight-loss-drugs/>

**“The diabetes community fears the drugmakers, which have long provided insulin, are prioritizing the development and sale of GLP-1 weight loss medications. “**

“**Around the world**, patients suddenly can’t find enough of the insulins made by companies they have long relied on to do so....” “....The reasons for the shortages are complex, but the diabetes community fears one factor driving the phenomenon: **Insulin manufacturers may be less interested in making it....”**

**“The histories of Novo and Lilly are deeply rooted in insulin.** Novo was founded in the 1920s precisely for the purpose of creating insulin, and Lilly commercialized the world’s first insulin product around the same time. **They, along with Sanofi, are the “big three” companies that dominate the global insulin market.** But in recent years, the companies have faced aggressive pressure from policymakers to lower the prices of insulin. **At the same time, Novo and Lilly have discovered a massive new moneymaker —** the class of highly effective GLP-1-based drugs for diabetes and obesity. These injectable medications, which include Ozempic and Mounjaro, are so popular that the companies are frantically building and finding new manufacturing facilities to make them. They’re filled in pen devices that are similar to the pens that many insulin products come in. As demand for GLP-1s continues to climb, patients and doctors worry the companies may be turning their focus and resources away from insulin and toward the GLP-1s....”

PS: “....Of course they’re more interested in GLP-1s now. Of course they are, and they want to maximize their profits before their patents run out,” said **Helen Bygrave, a chronic disease adviser for Doctors Without Borders** who has been monitoring the shortage of insulin pens in South Africa. “But at the same time, they have a responsibility to make sure people who need insulin continue to get it.” ...”

**Health Affairs - Counting On Insulin Manufacturers To Do The Right Thing Is Not A Good Policy Prescription To Avert Shortages**

M Barber et al; <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/counting-insulin-manufacturers-do-right-thing-not-good-policy-prescription-avert>

Well worth a read.

## Nature (Comment) - Make gene therapies more available by manufacturing them in lower-income nations

E M Harlow et al; <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02310-y>

**“Gene therapies will become more affordable everywhere only if they are developed and manufactured in the regions of the world most in need of them.”**

Focus in this Comment, among others, on **sickle cell disease**.

PS: “The **Global Gene Therapy Initiative (GGTI)**, of which we are both founding members, aims to enable people anywhere in the world to find out more about the development of gene therapies...”

## GHTC - Unpacking the Multilateral Architecture for Global Health R&D

<https://www.ghtcoalition.org/resources-item/unpacking-the-multilateral-architecture-for-global-health-r-d>

Neat **resource**. “A complex network of multilateral organizations contributes to the research and development (R&D) and delivery of vaccines, treatments, diagnostics, and other technologies to advance global health. This resource provides an overview of each organization and how it contributes across six R&D areas, as well as denotes participation in three key umbrella partnerships below.....”

## NYT – A daily pill to prevent S.T.I.s? It may work, scientists say

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/18/health/doxycycline-sti.html>

“A common antibiotic, doxycycline, greatly reduced cases of syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia when taking daily, a study found.” PS: would only be for a small group of high risk people.

## Gaza & other conflicts/wars/genocides

### Guardian - Highly infectious poliovirus found in Gaza sewage samples

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/19/israel-gaza-war-polio-sewage-samples>

“Gaza ministry warns thousands of people displaced by the Israel-Gaza war are at risk of contracting the disease which can cause deformities and paralysis.” “...The Gaza ministry said **tests carried out with the UN children’s agency, Unicef**, “showed the presence of poliovirus” in the territory that has endured a devastating Israeli military offensive since the 7 October Hamas attacks.”

### UN News - No end in sight to the ‘war on women’ in Gaza

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152246>

“Wars are never gender neutral and Gaza is further evidence of this as some one million women and girls bear “the worst brunt” of nine months of conflict, **the UN Women Special Representative** in the Occupied Palestinian Territory said on Thursday. “

### People’s Dispatch - Justice for Gaza will come, assures UN Special Rapporteur

<https://peoplesdispatch.org/2024/07/09/justice-for-gaza-will-come-assures-un-special-rapporteur/?ref=peoples-health-dispatch.ghost.io>

“In a conversation with health rights organizations, **UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health, Tlaleng Mofokeng**, discussed the ongoing efforts of health workers and activists to ensure justice for the Gaza Strip.”

### UN News - Over 1,000 attacks on healthcare in Occupied Palestinian Territory since October

[UN News](#);

“The World Health Organization (WHO) has registered more than 1,000 attacks on healthcare facilities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory since the October 7 terror attacks in Israel sparked the on-going war in Gaza, the **agency’s top official in the region - Rik Peepkorn** - said on Wednesday.”

### Oxfam - Israel using water as weapon of war as Gaza supply plummets by 94%, creating deadly health catastrophe

<https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/israel-using-water-weapon-war-gaza-supply-plummets-94-creating-deadly-health>

“A new Oxfam report reveals how Israel has been systematically weaponizing water against **Palestinians in Gaza**, showing disregard for human life and international law. The report, **Water War Crimes**, finds that Israel’s cutting of external water supply, systematic destruction of water facilities and deliberate aid obstruction have **reduced the amount of water available in Gaza by 94% to 4.74 litres a day per person – just under a third of the recommended minimum in emergencies and less than a single toilet flush. ...**”

### HRW (report) - October 7 Crimes Against Humanity, War Crimes by Hamas-led Groups

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2024/07/17/october-7-crimes-against-humanity-war-crimes-hamas-led-groups>

“**Hamas-led armed groups committed numerous war crimes and crimes against humanity against civilians** during the October 7 assault on southern Israel. Palestinian fighters committed summary killings, hostage-taking and other war crimes, and the crimes against humanity of murder and wrongful imprisonment. Governments with influence over the Palestinian armed groups **should press for the urgent release of all civilian hostages.**”

## UN News - South Sudan faces growing humanitarian crisis, warns WHO

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152106>

“Twelve years on from independence the people of South Sudan continue to face huge challenges, exacerbated now by the war in neighbouring Sudan, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Monday.”

## HSR2024 - The 8th Global Symposium on Health Systems Research

<https://hsr2024.healthsystemsresearch.org/>

Website on the **Nagasaki HSR symposium** is live now. It's looks great – though a bit overly 'harmonious' given the times we're in...

## Virchow Prize 2024

### Lucy Gilson & Johan Rockström awarded the Virchow Prize 2024

<https://virchowprize.org/lucy-gilson-and-johan-rockstroem-honoured-with-the-virchow-prize-2024/>

**“The Virchow Prize Committee has decided to bestow the Virchow Prize 2024 upon Lucy Gilson and Johan Rockström for their holistic and systems-based approach safeguarding human and planetary health.** With the Virchow Prize 2024, Gilson’s and Rockström’s pioneering contributions to the analysis and understanding of the importance of efficient health systems and the decisive role of climate and planetary boundaries to preserve the conditions for healthy lives on our planet earth are recognised and honoured.....”

## Miscellaneous

### Launch of website Global Health 2050

<https://globalhealth2050.org/>

Stay tuned for a major report in October, at the World Health Summit in Berlin.

**“In 2013, the *Lancet* published [Global Health 2035](#), the first report of the Commission on Investing in Health (CIH 1.0), which provided a roadmap to achieving dramatic gains in global health by 2035. **A second report (CIH 2.0)** was published five years later to mark the 40 year anniversary of the influential Alma Ata Declaration on “health for all.” **On October 15, 2024, we will publish a third report (CIH 3.0), called “Global Health 2050,” which identifies opportunities for investment in****

health in the post-COVID era that can succeed despite multiple headwinds, including rising geopolitical tensions and increasingly manifest climate change. ....”

### Economist – AI can predict tipping points before they happen

<https://www.economist.com/science-and-technology/2024/07/17/ai-can-predict-tipping-points-before-they-happen>

If AI indeed can predict tipping points in complex systems, many applications in various areas seem possible.

### Guardian – Support for democracy in Africa falls amid military coups and corruption

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/17/support-for-democracy-in-africa-falls-amid-military-coups-and-corruption>

**“Africans still have stronger preference for democratic governance than many other parts of the world.”**

“Support for democracy is falling in [Africa](#) amid a string of military coups and dissatisfaction with corruption and mismanagement, according to a **report by Afrobarometer**. However, Africans still have a stronger preference for democratic governance than many parts of the world. **Two-thirds of people in 30 African countries prefer democracy**, surveys conducted in 2021 or 2023 found, **down seven percentage points from a decade earlier....”**

### Devex - In world first, consortium aims to test antimalarials in early pregnancy

<https://www.devex.com/news/in-world-first-consortium-aims-to-test-antimalarials-in-early-pregnancy-107970>

“Malaria infection poses several risks for pregnant women and their unborn child. But they're often excluded in clinical trials due to safety concerns.”

**“ A group of research experts have joined together to conduct a phase 3 clinical trial testing the safety and efficacy of antimalarial treatments for women in their first trimester of pregnancy — an effort that they said has not been done before. The Safety of Antimalarials in the First TRimEster of pregnancy, or SAFIRE, consortium plans to test multiple antimalarial treatments. They plan to start by comparing the safety, tolerability, and efficacy of artemether-lumefantrine to pyronaridine-artesunate.”**

“Artemether-lumefantrine is the only artemisinin-based combination therapy, or ACT, recommended by the World Health Organization for women in their first trimester of pregnancy, while pyronaridine-artesunate is an ACT recommended by WHO to treat malaria in the general population, but currently not recommended for pregnant women in their first trimester due to limited data.;..”

## UNAIDS welcomes the adoption of a key HIV resolution by the Human Rights Council

[https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/july/20240712\\_human-rights-council](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/july/20240712_human-rights-council)

“UNAIDS welcomes the adoption, by consensus, of a critical resolution on human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS at the 56th session of the UN Human Rights Council.”

“The **2024 resolution 56/20 Human Rights in the Context of HIV and AIDS**, recognizes the **centrality of human rights to the HIV response**. The resolution reaffirms that, “the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all is an essential element in the global response to the HIV epidemic and its sustainability.”

PS: “... This ground-breaking text **includes the first unqualified recognition of sexual and reproductive health and rights in a UN resolution** and calls on countries to scale up comprehensive education on sexual and reproductive health with information on, “sexuality and comprehensive HIV prevention, gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment, human rights, and physical, psychological and pubertal development, to enable them to build self-esteem and risk reduction skills and to empower them in their decision-making, communication and development of respectful relationships, in order to enable them to protect themselves from HIV infection.” ....”

## Global health governance & Governance of Health

### Eurodad – Bretton Woods Institutions at 80: What should the future look like?

I Fresnillo et al ;

[https://www.eurodad.org/bretton\\_woods\\_institutions\\_at\\_80\\_what\\_should\\_the\\_future\\_look\\_like](https://www.eurodad.org/bretton_woods_institutions_at_80_what_should_the_future_look_like)

« On the eightieth anniversary of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, it is time for a change of course. **In this blog, our experts on the Bretton Woods Institutions explain why the world is in urgent need of more responsive, democratic, accountable and development-orientated. global economic governance.** «

Among others, exploring whether a decolonial future is possible for the two Bretton Woods twins. “...For many in civil society, **the Fourth United Nations International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4), taking place in Sevilla (Spain) in late June next year**, offers a unique space to address international financial architecture reforms.....”

### Global Development Policy Center - Making Sense of the IMF's Interim Review of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust

J Rambarran; <https://www.bu.edu/gdp/2024/07/17/making-sense-of-the-imfs-interim-review-of-the-resilience-and-sustainability-trust/>

“...At the end of June, the IMF [released](#) its interim review of the RST. While the interim review provides for some operational adjustments to the RST, they are not deep enough to fully actualize the potential of this new lending tool. **This blog provides an overview of what was covered in the interim review document and, drawing on previous work from the [Task Force on Climate, Development and the IMF](#), presents five recommendations for catalyzing the RST’s impact....”**

PS: “... All RSF arrangements have, so far, focused on climate-related challenges across a wide range of countries with varying climate profiles and capacity, suggesting that the climate change focus of the RSF has been broadly welcomed by the Fund’s membership. **Going forward, the IMF expects future RSF arrangements to include pandemic preparedness, and in this respect, it is [finalizing](#) a pandemic coordination framework with the World Bank and the World Health Organization.** The interim review, however, did not endorse the inclusion of other new qualifying longer-term structural challenges for RST financing and stated that this expansion would require further consideration....”

### ODI (Expert Comment) - Learning from ‘securenomics’ – how Britain can rebuild trust in lower-income countries

M Miller et al ; <https://odi.org/en/insights/learning-from-securenomics-how-britain-can-rebuild-trust-in-lower-income-countries/>

Interesting stance. “... In this piece, we argue that a good place to start rebuilding respect would be to **orient cooperation around a shared concern for growth, jobs and economic opportunity.** The new Labour government has clearly indicated that this is its first and most immediate priority domestically, yet it has often been treated as a secondary concern for cooperation in lower-income countries....”

“**Framing a more effective approach abroad could start by looking closer to home, rather than towards international frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals.** Chancellor Rachel Reeves’ approach to economic management – ‘securenomics’ – is essentially about **trying to revive economic growth with limited resources in a competitive and often hostile world.** There are useful lessons here for how the UK – but also other ‘Western’ nations and philanthropists - might contribute to growth in other countries despite pressing resource constraints....”

### CGD - The EU’s Global Role: A Third Node of Power

M Gavas & W Gyude Moore; <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/third-node-power>

“**This brief is the first in a series, *The EU’s Global Role: Policy Proposals for a New Era*.** The series will set out a suite of policy proposals designed to shape the international development agenda of the European Union’s leadership during the 2024-2029 term.”

“... In this piece, **we propose a reset of the EU’s international relations narrative and “third way” for the EU to position itself as a global development player.**”

“... The departure from global responses to a more transactional, bilateral approach has created a pressing need for **a third way—an effort to balance national or regional self-interest with the goal of delivering development progress in less developed parts of the world and tackling the world’s**

ills. As the United States and China focus their attention on each other—a credible third node of international power could protect the gains of global development and push this agenda forward. The EU’s long-standing commitment to development can be fully in line, and an advantage, to the EU’s strategic and economic security interests. **A strategic reset could allow the EU to rebalance advancing global development objectives with its economic security interests, recognising that international cooperation is both a question of solidarity and responsibility, and has co-benefits....”**

### **Global Policy (blog) After the landslide: What are the prospects for UK-EU collaboration in global development cooperation?**

<https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/12/07/2024/after-landslide-what-are-prospects-uk-eu-collaboration-global-development>

“**Andrew Sherriff and Andy Sumner** explore the rocky road ahead for the new UK government’s relations with the EU.”

“So, the UK has a new government. What does it mean for post-Brexit UK-EU relations? In a **new brief for ECDPM**, we consider the UK election outcome and explore the potential challenges and opportunities for UK-EU collaboration on development....”

- For the **ECDPM brief**, see [Budding buddies? The rocky road to boosting UK-EU development cooperation after Labour’s landslide victory](#)

### **UNAIDS and China sign two strategic agreements to advance the HIV response**

[https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/july/20240715\\_china](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/july/20240715_china)

“**The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and China signed two new Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) to advance joint strategic efforts to end AIDS in China and globally.**”

“**The first agreement was signed on 10 July by Wang Hesheng, Vice Minister of the National Health Commission and Administrator of the National Disease Control and Prevention Administration (NDCPA) and Winnie Byanyima, Executive Director of UNAIDS, in Beijing.** UNAIDS and China have agreed to deepen their collaboration to reach the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, within the context of China’s Global Development Initiative (GDI) and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The agreement acknowledges China’s commitment to take a leadership role in the global HIV response including mobilizing partners and supporting efforts to end AIDS in middle- and lower-income countries. ... .. According to the agreement, NDCPA will make an annual contribution of USD\$1 million to UNAIDS from 2025 to 2029, totaling USD\$5 million, which includes increased core funding....”

“**The other agreement signed in Beijing on 13 July with the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA)** addresses critical global development issues to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which includes promoting health and ending AIDS globally, especially in other developing countries in Africa and Asia Pacific....”

## Devex Pro (report)– Emerging Donors 3.0

<https://www.devex.com/downloadables/emerging-donors-3-0-25>

The report is free.

Short **summary**, via [Devex Newswire](#): “rundown on the world’s emerging donor countries”:

“The members of the OECD Development Assistance Committee are known for being the world’s leading donors of official development assistance. But while these members still have a monopoly on ODA, **new donors — and therefore new options for recipient countries — are emerging onto the scene.** So we’ve compiled a special report on [who these emerging donors are and how they’re different](#) from traditional DAC members. While our report shows they still don’t have the DAC’s economic clout, these newbies are putting in some respectable figures. **For example, Kuwait, Poland, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates spent \$19.7 billion in aid in 2022.**”

“However, **many of these donors have steered away from conventional forms of development cooperation.** On the one hand, this gives low- and middle-income countries new funding vehicles that are usually easier to access than ODA. On the other hand, some experts fear that a less transparent system could potentially ensnare the recipients in debt traps.....”

And via [Devex](#): “Emerging donors such as China and those in the Middle East provide alternative funding sources for low- and middle-income countries, including for the health sector. [In this latest downloadable report](#), our team of experts finds that **health is a priority sector for China and Saudi Arabia. China committed \$2.6 billion to health in 2021 from \$311.5 million in 2017.**”

PS: The report is [free](#).

## Global health financing

### FT - Philanthropists embrace collaborative funding to multiply their impact

<https://www.ft.com/content/8403a83d-e375-4996-89c4-a5abe6097d6b?segmentId=2c1df321-36a4-1206-2c08-112c059dd69d&sf194846659=1>

“**Pooling resources** allows donors to make larger, co-ordinated grants while retaining decision-making powers about where the money is spent.”

- Cfr related **tweet by the Gates Foundation**:

“Kudos to the @FT for spotlighting the power of **funder collaboratives** like the @theENDFund, , where **7,000 investors from 68 countries pool capital to address neglected tropical diseases like trachoma....**”

“... **One collaborative** that has made the shift from learning to giving **The END Fund. Founded in 2012 by a mix of philanthropists and investment firms interested in ending neglected tropical diseases, such as trachoma and roundworms, the organisation used a novel funding approach.** ....  
“We are not a foundation — we are a fund,” says interim CEO Diana Benton Schechter. “We have a

portfolio of pooled funds within our organisation, and our donors decide which portfolio they wish to contribute to. As a programme is administered, we gather the philanthropists to hear about their ‘returns’ and give them opportunities to share learnings from their other work,” says Benton Schechter. “It creates a really joyful learning community of peers passionate about the same causes.” **The END Fund has 7,000 investors from 68 countries, and the large amount of capital has allowed it to make a difference on neglected tropical diseases.** For instance, in Burundi, 340,000 trachoma treatments have saved large areas of the country from blindness. In Ethiopia, more than 58,000 patients have received sight-saving surgeries....”

PS: “... Foster of **Bridgespan** says: “I think we will look back, one day, and say that [collaboration] is the most significantly impactful change in philanthropy.”

## CGD (blog) - Global Nutrition Financing: A Beginner’s Guide

J Ahazie et al; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/global-nutrition-financing-beginners-guide>

“... We set out to gain a better understanding of the nutrition landscape, including the key players, interventions, and financing. We soon realized that **the data on nutrition financing is complex—arguably more complex than health financing.** Nutrition financing and its data are complex due to the diverse interventions for nutrition across sectors and stakeholders, with both direct and indirect benefits. ...”

“In this piece, we walk through what we’ve learned in navigating the basics of nutrition financing from **three key sources—the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), Results for Development (R4D), and the Global Nutrition Report (GNR).** The data from these three sources are useful in revealing funding patterns and donor commitments to nutrition interventions. **While traditional heavyweights like the US, UK, and Canada have mostly maintained roles in funding nutrition initiatives, emerging leaders such as Germany and Japan are poised to play more prominent roles in the future.** Despite existing funding shortfalls and unmet commitments from donors, **the upcoming 2025 Nutrition for Growth Summit in Paris represents a potentially pivotal moment to reinvigorate efforts and ensure accountability, including for the Child Nutrition Fund.** “

PS: “...**Multilaterals and philanthropies, particularly EU institutions, the World Bank, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, remain top donors in nutrition-specific interventions....”**

“... Looking ahead, **the next N4G Summit is slated to take place in Paris in 2025.** As a global platform that brings together a diverse array of stakeholders, including governments, philanthropies, NGOs, and private companies, the next N4G presents an opportunity to review progress on targets and to hold stakeholders to account for all commitments made in 2021, including financial commitments. Additionally, **the recent creation of the Child Nutrition Fund (CNF) represents an opportunity to accelerate efforts to end child malnutrition.** This financing mechanism supports government-led initiatives in countries that have developed operational roadmaps as part of the **United Nations Secretary-General’s Global Action Plan on Child Wasting.** The CNF utilizes three distinct ‘windows’—the Programme Window, the Match Window, and the Supplier Window—to incentivize, increase, and prioritize the allocation of global and domestic resources towards essential programs and supplies for the prevention, detection, and treatment of child malnutrition. **How effectively the CNF addresses nutrition financing gaps in the broader nutrition financing architecture is what many in the nutrition financing space are watching closely. ...”**

## UHC & PHC

### BMJ Editorial - Public healthcare system must be a priority for India's new government

S Nagral et al; <https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q1479>

“Long term investment in the public system is the only way to achieve equitable access to quality care.”

## Pandemic preparedness & response/ Global Health Security

### WHO's response to health emergencies: annual report 2023

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240097452>

Funding report.

### WHO launches unique training course to enable parliamentarians in global health security

<https://www.who.int/news/item/12-07-2024-who-launches-unique-training-course-to-enable-parliamentarians-in-global-health-security>

“The World Health Organization has released "The Role of Parliaments and Parliamentarians in Strengthening Health Security Preparedness", an online training course. This essential resource aims to equip parliamentarians with the knowledge and tools necessary to enhance global health security efforts.....”

## Planetary health

### Devex - Under Azerbaijan's repression, what's civil society's role at COP 29?

<https://www.devex.com/news/under-azerbaijan-s-repression-what-s-civil-society-s-role-at-cop-29-107872>

“It’s hard to get an uncensored perspective from inside Azerbaijan, which raises concerns about whether there can be meaningful participation of civil society at the upcoming U.N. climate summit.”

“It’s four months out until the 29th United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP 29, is hosted in Azerbaijan. This is the third year in a row that the world’s largest climate change

**convening is hosted by an authoritarian regime.** In February, a group of Azerbaijani organizations created the **Climate of Justice Initiative**. In outlining their vision, they criticized the rise of greenhouse gas emissions and inequitable distribution of domestic water resources. They lamented corruption and repression of civil society — including the arrest of politicians, journalists, and social activists on fabricated charges. They wrote that they see COP 29 as an “opportunity to promote civil liberties, public participation, and environmental justice in Azerbaijan.” But in April, Anar Mammadli, one of the initiative’s co-founders, was arrested on what Amnesty International described as trumped up charges of smuggling. He’s now one of the **estimated nearly 300 Azerbaijani political prisoners and journalists in detention.....”**

“... It’s hard to get an uncensored perspective from inside the country, which raises concerns about whether there can be meaningful participation of civil society at COP 29 — at a moment when the world must have tough conversations about the climate crisis.....”

PS: “... Kate Watters, executive director of **Crude Accountability**, told Devex she **questions the choice of consecutive host countries with economies heavily dependent on fossil fuels and governments that repress freedom of speech.** “Is this a serious endeavor? Is the United Nations really serious about its commitment to climate justice?” she asked.”

### **Lancet Planetary Health - Confronting heat-related illnesses and deaths at mass gathering religious and sporting events**

Brian McCloskey et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196\(24\)00161-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(24)00161-X/fulltext)

“A large number of mass gatherings (religious events, sporting events, festivals, etc) are held at regular intervals globally, and millions of attendees and event participants face a range of public health threats. Among non-communicable disease threats, **heat-related illnesses (including heat hyperpyrexia, heat stroke, and death) have become of increasing concern over the past decade**

.... **reducing the risk of heat-related illnesses and deaths at the numerous mass gatherings held annually must remain an urgent global priority.** The heat-related deaths during the 2024 Hajj are a grim reminder that, **apart from global climate change and increased ambient temperatures, a multitude of other factors will have played a role, and defining these factors remains important.** ...  
 .... **Event organisers and the host countries of mass gatherings now need to incorporate a focus on climate change and its long-term effects in their planning and generate an evidence base of risk factors and prevention methods for heat-related illnesses.** They should develop common guidelines and have specific monitoring in place that accounts for participants who are not formally registered....”

“...Sources of advice are already available, including the [Heat Action Platform](#) developed by the **World Economic Forum's Global Commission on Biodiverse Cities by 2030**, which provides cities with a roadmap to address extreme environmental temperatures.....”

“... As global temperatures continue to rise, **climate change should become increasingly important in the planning of mass gatherings and should be viewed as an existential threat to all mass sporting, artistic, and religious events.** ....”

## Science News - To avoid sea level rise, some researchers want to build barriers around the world's most vulnerable glaciers

<https://www.science.org/content/article/avoid-sea-level-rise-some-researchers-want-build-barriers-around-world-s-most>

**“Call to study glacial geoengineering stirs up “civil war” among polar scientists.”**

“Over the past few decades, earth scientists have grappled with the concept of **solar geoengineering**: cooling the rapidly warming planet by injecting particles high into the atmosphere to reflect sunlight, for example. **Now, researchers are proposing a new way to battle the effects of climate change that could prove even more costly and controversial: glacial geoengineering, designed to slow sea level rise.**”

**“A [white paper](#), released on 11 July by glaciologists who conducted a series of workshops and town halls over the course of 10 months, calls for boosting research into daring plans that would protect vulnerable ice sheets by building flexible barriers around them or drilling deep into them to slow their slippage into the sea. But these untested ideas are stirring up a backlash among glaciologists, some of whom view them not only as outlandishly expensive and logistically flawed but also as a distraction from the problem of reducing greenhouse gas emissions...”**”

## Geo - What is the role of universities at a time of climate and ecological crisis?

James G. Dyke & George Monbiot; [Geo](#);

**“This paper presents a dialogue between a writer and an academic about the roles and responsibilities of universities with respect to the climate and ecological crisis.** The discussion addressed **six priority issues: education; student protest; academic objectivity; student debt and financing; fossil fuel funding; consensus and risks.** In considering these issues, the importance of interdisciplinarity was stressed. This included fostering inclusive approaches beyond natural sciences while recognising the importance of different perspectives on environmental challenges. The role of universities as a locus of social change was emphasised. An exploration of opportunities and barriers towards facilitating such perspectives within higher education was discussed. “

## Science News - Loss of India's vultures may have led to deaths of half a million people

<https://www.science.org/content/article/loss-india-s-vultures-may-have-led-deaths-half-million-people>

**“Find could offer lessons for conserving key species in other places.”**

**“Vultures have long been associated with death,** and perhaps for good reason. With their hunched shoulders, hooked beaks, and signature bald heads, they fly around looking for dead and decaying animals to scavenge. **But they also serve an important role in protecting human life, a new study finds. The near-extinction of the birds across India in the 1990s led to the spread of disease-carrying pathogens from an excess of dead animals, [killing more than a half-million people](#) from 2000 to 2005.** The study, currently online as a **working paper that will be published in an upcoming**

issue of the *American Economic Review*, puts the monetary damage from the related public health crisis at nearly \$70 billion a year.....”

### Plos Climate (Opinion) - Projecting progress in sustainable development goals vis-à-vis climate action in climate-economy models

Alexandros Nikas ; <https://journals.plos.org/climate/article?id=10.1371/journal.pclm.0000449>

“..... climate-economy models—i.e., the quantitative systems models typically used to evaluate or support the design of climate policies, also called Integrated Assessment Models (IAMs)—have increasingly been used to offer quantified projections of SDG progress into the future, in tandem with mitigation efforts ...”

“.... This piece discusses six ways, in which the capacity to evaluate progress in SDGs vis-à-vis efforts to mitigate climate change using IAMs is currently being enhanced to offer robust and actionable policy prescriptions that may place climate policy in a holistic sustainable development context.....”

### Project Syndicate - Preparing for a Future of Extreme Heat Waves

<https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/extreme-heat-preparedness-housing-transport-water-by-renzo-guinto-2024-07>

by Renzo Guinto. He urges political leaders to place resilience at the heart of housing, transport and policies. Read what this ‘heat resilience’ would entail.

## Covid

### Stat - Why Covid is surging this summer — and what health experts say has changed

<https://www.statnews.com/2024/07/18/latest-covid-spike-update-new-variants-fewer-novids/>

“...STAT spoke with experts in infectious disease, virology, and public health to find out what people need to know about this summer’s Covid surge. **One key message: Despite the increase in cases, the protection people have built up thanks to rounds of vaccination and prior infections is still sparing the vast majority of people from severe illness.**”

### Politico - Von der Leyen loses vaccine contract transparency case in EU’s top court

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eus-top-court-rules-against-european-commission-in-vaccine-contracts-transparency-case/>

“The ruling comes a day ahead of the MEPs’ vote on Ursula von der Leyen in Strasbourg.”

“The Court of Justice of the European Union has ruled today that the European Commission did not give the public “sufficiently wide access” to Covid-19 vaccine contracts, finding irregularities in its justification for redacting parts of the documents.....”

## FT - UK planned for 'wrong pandemic', Covid inquiry says

<https://www.ft.com/content/3fda9ad2-16cd-4646-bf74-7f920d6ec652>

"Report finds focus on influenza and preparations for no-deal Brexit hampered response to virus."

## NYT - Long Covid and Vaccination: What You Need to Know

A Mandavilli; <https://www.nytimes.com/article/long-covid-vaccine.html>

"A new study adds to evidence that the shots can reduce the chances of developing one of the most dreaded consequences of Covid..."

- See also Stat – [Vaccination slashes risk of long Covid, says large study tracing cases through Delta and Omicron variants](#)

"Vaccination lowers the chance of developing long Covid, according to a large new study that also found that the risk of serious complications has diminished but not disappeared as new coronavirus variants emerged. The study, [published Wednesday in the New England Journal of Medicine](#), compared the health records of more than 440,000 Veterans Affairs patients who were infected with Covid-19 with records of more than 4 million uninfected people. The analysis found that cases of long Covid — also called PASC (post-acute sequelae of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2) — fell among all participants during the Delta and Omicron eras of the pandemic, but dropped almost twice as much for vaccinated people when the Omicron variant dominated cases..."

PS: "The bad news: It's **still affecting 3.5% of people who get Covid**, significant disability."

## Health Sociology Review - Securitisation of COVID-19 pandemic: policy measures in India and implications for health governance

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14461242.2024.2372026>

by N. D. Vivek.

## NIH - Study suggests reinfections from the virus that causes COVID-19 likely have similar severity as original infection

<https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/study-suggests-reinfections-virus-causes-covid-19-likely-have-similar-severity-original-infection>

"NIH-funded analysis of health record data shows **severe reinfections often follow severe first infections.**"

"Using **health data from almost 213,000 Americans who experienced reinfections**, researchers have found that severe infections from the virus that causes COVID-19 tend to foreshadow similar severity of infection the next time a person contracts the disease. Additionally, scientists discovered

that long COVID was more likely to occur after a first infection compared to a reinfection. **The study, funded by the National Institutes of Health’s (NIH) Researching COVID to Enhance Recovery (RECOVER ) Initiative, is published in *Communications Medicine*.**”

## Infectious diseases & NTDs

**Cidrap News - Seven countries report more polio cases, including wild-type in Afghanistan**

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/polio/seven-countries-report-more-polio-cases-including-wild-type-afghanistan>

“**Three more wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) cases were reported from Afghanistan**, all in Kandahar, raising the country's total for the year to nine, **the Global Polio Eradication Initiative said in its latest weekly update**. The new cases put the country over its total for 2023, which was six.....”

“... Elsewhere, six countries—mostly in Africa—reported more polio cases involving two different vaccine-derived types.....”

**Telegraph - Rabies outbreak in seals triggers warning to Cape Town’s surfers and beachgoers**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/rabies-outbreak-seals-cape-town-south-africa-warning/>

“Reports of aggressive seals attacking and biting surfers heighten fears that they might now infect people with the incurable disease.”

**Telegraph - The Chilean tree that could help cure malaria (and a host of other diseases)**

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/the-chilean-tree-that-could-cure-malaria-and-other-diseases/>

“The rare soapbark produces a chemical that powers new malaria jabs being rolled out across Africa. A single gram can cost \$100,000.”

**Nature Outlook - Even with no drug or vaccine, eradication of Guinea worm is in sight**

[Nature](#);

“ Community-based efforts have reduced the parasitic infection to a handful of cases in humans each year, but the emergence of infections in dogs and other animals threatens to derail progress.”

## AMR

### Lancet GH - Over-the-counter sales of antibiotics: a call to action to ensure access and prevent excess

M Melles-Brewer et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(24\)00215-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(24)00215-8/fulltext)

« **Over-the-counter (OTC) sale of antibiotics** refers to the practice of selling antibiotics without a valid prescription from a health-care professional authorised to issue it. **OTC sales are a global concern, as acknowledged in the global action plan on antimicrobial resistance, the report of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group on antimicrobial resistance, and the recently launched people-centred approach to addressing antimicrobial resistance in human health...**”

« ... **In May, 2023, the Quadripartite Organizations** (the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, the UN Environment Programme, WHO, and the World Organisation for Animal Health) **convened the first Global Joint Summit of Human and Veterinary Medicines Regulatory Authorities to Preserve Antimicrobials**. One of its objectives was to foster innovative, smart solutions to reduce OTC sales of antibiotics. Concurrently, **WHO launched an electronic consultation and later convened a consultation of key stakeholders to discuss possible interventions including the feasibility of a global campaign to phase out OTC sales of antibiotics...**”

« ... There were **several key findings** from the WHO global consultation to phase out OTC antibiotics....”

« ... Acknowledging the varying systemic factors between countries, including health-care delivery capacity and antibiotic access, **a decision was made to not move forward with a WHO global campaign at this stage**. The UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on antimicrobial resistance in September, 2024, poses a timely opportunity to mobilise political commitments and financial resources for such an issue that is severely underfunded. **WHO will nevertheless continue to encourage and collaborate with countries to prioritise the issue in respective national action plans on antimicrobial resistance.** »

### University of East Anglia - Tax on antibiotics could help tackle threat of drug resistance

<https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/news/article/tax-on-antibiotics-could-help-tackle-threat-of-drug-resistance>

“**Taxing certain antibiotics could help efforts to tackle the escalating threat of antibiotic resistance in humans, according to a new study** by the University of East Anglia’s **Centre for Competition Policy**, Loughborough University and E.CA Economics.....”

“... In this new study, **economists examined the feasibility of ‘taxing’ GP surgeries for using particular broad-spectrum drugs** – the idea being that when they prescribe them, the amount charged to their drug budget would be higher by the amount of the tax. Writing in **the International Journal of Industrial Organization**, they argue that because GPs can choose which

drug to prescribe this could encourage greater use of narrow-spectrum drugs as well as aim to reduce testing time and costs. It could also potentially help manage the demand for antibiotics by adjusting the relative pricing of the drugs....”

### Telegraph - Can robots unravel the mystery of why bacteria are beating our best antibiotics?

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/artificial-intelligence-ai-antimicrobial-resistance-amr/>

**“Oxford University researchers are building AI-powered machines to monitor the superbug infections behind the ‘silent pandemic’.”**

“... the team here – consisting of about 20 researchers, engineers, software developers, and PhD students – are actually part of a **US government-funded research project**, named **‘Defeating Antibiotic Resistance through Transformative Solutions’ (DARTS)**. Their **mission is to develop new technologies to diagnose and treat antimicrobial resistance (AMR)** – a phenomenon where pathogens evolve to evade the drugs designed to kill them. ...”

“... Led by engineer Dr Harrison Steel, **the University of Oxford research group has been tasked with building AI-powered machines to monitor drug-resistant infections in critically ill patients and determine effective treatments**. They have developed **two systems** – one named **the Evolution Machine** and another yet to be christened – to combat AMR. ....”

## NCDs

### Nature Medicine - A global initiative to deliver precision health in diabetes

W T Cefalu et al ; <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-024-03032-4>

« **A recent workshop** brought together global leaders in diabetes to assess existing approaches to disease heterogeneity and to identify research gaps, with a **goal of achieving precision diabetology for all patients globally.....”**

### BMJ Opinion - Trans fat: everyone must join the fight to eliminate this invisible killer from the world’s food supply forever

Dr Tedros & Tom Frieden ; <https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q1525>

**“...Three priority actions are needed to achieve a trans fat-free world.....”**

“... Firstly, **we call on all governments to limit or ban trans fat in all foods**, in line with WHO-recommended policy. .... Secondly, **we call on governments to ensure limits and bans are monitored and enforced**. ... Thirdly, **we call on the food industry to implement WHO recommendations**, making sure that when trans fat is removed, it is replaced with healthier fats and oils and minimize fats linked to and increased risk of cardiovascular disease, such as saturated fat.

Companies should also agree to not sell products containing trans fat in markets where no policies yet exist.....”

### **Plos GPH - Effectiveness of community-based interventions for prevention and control of hypertension in sub-Saharan Africa: A systematic review**

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003459>

By Endalkachew Worku Mengesha et al.

### **WHO Bulletin - A case for increasing taxes on cigarettes, vapes and oral nicotine pouches, Kenya**

[https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/bulletin/online-first/blt.23.290985.pdf?sfvrsn=b6219c20\\_3](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/bulletin/online-first/blt.23.290985.pdf?sfvrsn=b6219c20_3)

By Cyprian M Mostert et al.

## **Social & commercial determinants of health**

### **Lancet Public Health – The prevalence of gambling and problematic gambling: a systematic review and meta-analysis**

Lucy T Tran et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(24\)00126-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(24)00126-9/fulltext)

« **In this study, we aimed to estimate for adults and adolescents** the prevalence of any gambling activity, the prevalence of engaging in specific gambling activities, the prevalence of any risk gambling and problematic gambling, and the prevalence of any risk and problematic gambling by gambling activity.....”

Conclusions: « ... **Existing evidence suggests that gambling is prevalent globally, that a substantial proportion of the population engage in problematic gambling, and that rates of problematic gambling are greatest among those gambling on online formats.** Given the growth of the online gambling industry and the association tween gambling and a range of public health harms, **governments need to give greater attention to the strict regulation and monitoring of gambling globally.** »

### **Global Public Health - Stigmatisation and resistance processes: Reflections on the field of HIV research and an agenda for contemporary stigma studies**

L Magno et al ; <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17441692.2024.2371390?src=>

“Stigmatisation processes constitute key barriers to effectively addressing the HIV pandemic. In this article, we provide a critical overview of this field's current state of the art, highlighting some

**key emerging issues that merit greater research attention in the future to ensure that contemporary research on stigmatisation and resistance processes continues to engage with changing social and political circumstances.** We look at how resistance to stigma has developed in the context of HIV and highlight some of the most important programmatic strategies that have emerged over the history of the pandemic. **We present the key concepts of ‘moral panics’ and ‘necropolitics’, and we articulate them in relation to new global phenomena that deepen the processes of stigmatisation.** Moreover, we **identify an agenda for investigation which merits greater attention in future research, intervention, and advocacy:** 1) changing political environments, neoliberalism, growing political polarisation, and the rise of political extremism; 2) the rise of the information age, technological change, and social media; and 3) rebuilding civil society and governmental responses to stigma.”

And a quote with direct relevance for this section: “...This **focus on necropower** has proven to be an effective conceptual tool for thinking about issues related to the impact of racism, gender power, sexual oppression and related forms of social exclusion and marginalisation (Haritaworn et al., Citation2014; Perera & Pugliese, Citation2021). ... It can also help us to better understand how stigma and discrimination can infiltrate and invade ‘the responses of governments, of the intergovernmental system, and the globalised neoliberal capitalist system more broadly’, **transforming the social and political determinants of health into the social and political determinants of death**, and appropriating racism, gender oppression, sexual stigma and discrimination and class oppression as the ‘drivers’ of official policies and programmes in ways that can only be addressed through political resistance and activism...”

## Sexual & Reproductive health rights

**Global Public Health - The feasibility, acceptability, appropriateness and impact of implementing person-centered communication for prevention of female genital mutilation in antenatal care settings in Guinea, Kenya and Somalia**

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17441692.2024.2369100>

by P Ndavi et al.

**SS&M – Abortion, decriminalisation and the medico-legal paradigm**

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953624005513>

By Erica Millar.

**Guardian - ‘Why didn’t my mother prevent it?’: healing the generational trauma of FGM**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/article/2024/jul/17/healing-the-generational-trauma-of-fgm-kenya>

“ Art and counselling are helping women and girls in Kenya to process anger and forgive family members, who are often the ones who subjected them to genital mutilation.”

## Adolescent health

Public Health in Practice - Interventions for adolescent mental, sexual and reproductive health in West Africa: A scoping review

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666535224000673?via%3Dihub>

By A. Agyepong, T Mirzoev et al.

## Access to medicines & health technology

Vaccine (special issue) - The Immunization Agenda 2030

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/vaccine/vol/42/suppl/S1>

Edited by Peter Hotez et al.

Speaking of Medicine - Vaccine hesitancy-mediated Secondary Immunodeficiency

By guest contributors Carlos E. Medina-De la Garza and María de los Ángeles Castro-Corona;

<https://speakingofmedicine.plos.org/2024/07/11/vaccine-hesitancy-mediated-secondary-immunodeficiency/>

“**Health conditions causing secondary immunodeficiency (SID)** range from HIV infection and measles to malnutrition and diabetes. **SID is an impairment of the immune response resulting from conditions or factors extrinsic to the immune system.** Humans develop and mature their protective immune responses through exposition to antigens. Thus, children and adults must be exposed to relevant antigens to develop immune competence and preserve homeostasis. Vaccination also provides such antigens...”

“... **An individual susceptible to an infection for which there is a safe, available vaccine is exposed to an unacceptable risk of infection if not vaccinated, bearing an immune handicap similar to a SID:** a healthy immune system is intentionally not exposed to a beneficial antigen and put at high risk of infection, the hallmark of all immunodeficiencies. **We propose that the adverse anti-vaccine scenario be recognized as a social cause of SID and point out an additional perspective on addressing vaccine hesitancy.** The **concept of vaccine rejection as causing SID** may help the public, and some health professionals acknowledge that unvaccinated children/adults acquire a real and present immunological disadvantage towards a specific disease.....”

**Plos med – Cost-effectiveness of COVID rapid diagnostic tests for patients with severe/critical illness in low- and middle-income countries: A modeling study**

<https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1004429>

by G Bonnet et al.

## Human resources for health

**WHO Bulletin – Health worker protests and the COVID-19 pandemic: an interrupted time-series analysis**

[https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/bulletin/online-first/blt.23.290330.pdf?sfvrsn=f0ce4fa5\\_3](https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source/bulletin/online-first/blt.23.290330.pdf?sfvrsn=f0ce4fa5_3)

By K Sharma, V Sriram et al. Conclusion: “...The pandemic increased the overall level of health worker protests globally as well as the number of countries experiencing such protests. ....”

**Stat Opinion - Why aren't philanthropists stepping up to support nursing education?**

T R Vitale et al ; <https://www.statnews.com/2024/07/16/philanthropists-step-up-support-nursing-schools/>

“Michael Bloomberg’s donation of [\\$1 billion to Johns Hopkins University](#) to support medical education goes beyond similar [gifts](#) to [other](#) medical schools. The Bloomberg gift provides support to students in Hopkins’ schools of nursing and public health, not just in its medical school. As health professionals and educators, we are thrilled to see philanthropists supporting the future of medical training in the U.S. But **as nurses, we are left asking why nursing schools are often left out of philanthropic donations like these, even though nurses are [the backbone of the health care system](#).....”**

**Plos GPH - Educational priorities of low-and middle-income country medical diaspora organisations: A critical discourse analysis**

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003481>

By Ishrat Hussain et al.

**HRH - The weaponization of professionalism against physicians of color**

<https://human-resources-health.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12960-024-00931-y>

By Maria Borrero et al.

## Decolonize Global Health

**BMJ News – “Untie” aid to allow health researchers in lower income countries to lead projects, UK told**

<https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q1573>

“The UK’s Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) should “untie its aid” to enable researchers in low and middle income countries (LMICs) to fully lead projects and give them the choice to collaborate with partners around the world, not just in the UK, the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) has said. An ICAI report assessed the relevance of DHSC’s strategy and approach to global health research ....”

**SS&M - Cancer linguistics and the politics of decolonizing health communication in Coastal Tanzania: Reflections from an anthropological investigation**

D Krugman et al ;

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953624005355?dgcid=author>

“Historic efforts of decolonizing health in postcolonies allow for generative lessons. **The normative binary between local and colonial languages is limited and limiting. Colonially derived language ideologies can reproduce incommunicability.** Global South theories of language provide new bases to depart from. Incommunicability and the global regimes that support it can and must be dismantled.”

**Nature News - Many plant names are offensive: botanists will vote on whether to change them**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02337-1>

“Researchers at an international meeting will also consider how to monitor names that have problematic roots.”

“[Plant scientists](#) are set to decide on whether to rid their field of offensive names. **This week, the group that sets the rules for naming plant species will vote on whether to rename dozens of organisms whose scientific designations contain a racial slur, as well as to reconsider other offensive names, such as those that recognize colonialists or people who advocated for slavery.**

The votes at the **International Botanical Congress in Madrid** mark the first time that taxonomists have officially considered rule changes to deal with species names that many people find offensive....”

- And by now see Nature - [Hundreds of racist plant names will change after historic vote by botanists](#)

## Miscellaneous

### The Nation – The Discourse Around Biden’s Health Has Been Odious

G Gonsalves; <https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/biden-health-speculation-disability-disease/>

**“We should be able to talk about the president’s condition without sinking into harmful speculation or pernicious stereotypes.”**

“... It’s been remarkable to see how the focus on President Biden’s age has slid into old stereotypes. No matter what you think of the President’s debate performance, his cognitive state, or his fitness to continue his campaign, **it should be possible to discuss these issues respectfully, and without descending into wild speculation. There are serious questions to be asked about how this is all being portrayed, and real concerns about how it has set back our quest for equal rights for people living with disease and disability in the United States.**”

**“Two moments have stood out to me:** the press-driven frenzy over whether Biden has Parkinson’s disease, and the decision by one of the world’s most august weekly periodicals, The Economist, to put a walker on the cover of its July 6 issue along with the caption “No Way to Run a Country.” ...”

“... The way the press and the public see people living with disabilities—or those simply growing old—matters if we don’t want to sink back into 19th-century Social Darwinism....”

### Stat - What to know about Trump VP pick J.D. Vance’s health care views and investments

<https://www.statnews.com/2024/07/15/jd-vance-trump-vp-healthcare-abortion-investments/>

“Sen. J.D. Vance, who was tapped to be former President Trump’s running mate on Monday, has a **history of investing in health care companies — and of pursuing health care policies that are sometimes at odds with his party’s base.**”

“Vance, as a Yale-educated venture capitalist, has invested in biotech startups developing new therapies, companies that aim to aid in drug discovery, health data companies, and health tech platforms, according to his federal financial disclosures....”

### Stat Plus - Expansive new study points to distinct brain networks linked to sex and gender

<https://www.statnews.com/2024/07/12/brain-networks-differ-for-sex-gender-study-published-journal-science-advances/>

(gated) **“Researchers used artificial intelligence to analyze data from MRI scans of thousands of children and found that they could predict a study participant’s sex or gender — albeit imperfectly — by looking at how brain regions interacted with one another. Notably, the patterns of**

connections that predicted sex, which is driven in large part by biology, were not the same as the patterns that predicted gender, defined by a person's sense of identity.....”

- See also Science News - [Brain imaging study in children shows sex and gender operate in different networks of the brain](#)

“Experts say the study reinforces the need to consider sex and gender separately in biomedical research.”

### Devex - How Thailand and Indonesia's OECD entry bids could boost their economies

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-thailand-and-indonesia-s-oecd-entry-bids-could-boost-their-economies-107932>

“As Thailand and Indonesia attempt to become the first Southeast Asian OECD members, many hope the process itself will bring economic development and much-needed reforms.”

### AP - Soros' Open Society Foundations say their restructuring is complete and pledge \$400M for green jobs

<https://apnews.com/article/osf-george-soros-alex-soros-climate-change-green-economy-6f234035efdc3fa840b1f070e60ea091>

“Open Society Foundations, the philanthropic organizations that billionaire investor George Soros has built up since the 1970s, revealed its first new major commitment on Tuesday after a years-long internal reorganization, pledging \$400 million over eight years to support green economic development.”

On Open Society's's new **Economic and Climate Prosperity program** that commits \$400 million to support new models of green economic growth in the Global South.

## Papers & reports

### Lancet GH – August issue

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

In addition to the editorial and a few other articles already mentioned above, we flag (out of the articles that hadn't been published online yet):

- [Lancet GH Comment - Using verbal autopsy to enhance mortality surveillance](#)

Linked to a new study in the Lancet GH: [Temporal changes in cause of death among adolescents and adults in six countries in eastern and southern Africa in 1995–2019: a multi-country surveillance study of verbal autopsy data](#)

- [Lancet GH Comment - Delivering safe dengue vaccines](#) (by Scott B Halstead )
- [HIV incidence among women engaging in sex work in sub-Saharan Africa: a systematic review and meta-analysis](#) (by Harriet S Jones et al)

Among the conclusions: “...Across sub-Saharan Africa, HIV incidence among women who engage in sex work remains disproportionately high compared with the total female population. However, constant relative incidence over time indicates HIV incidence among women who engage in sex work has declined at a similar rate...”

### **Global Public Health - Addressing the needs of cisgender, heterosexual men and LGBTIQ+ survivors of sexual violence: a scoping review of service delivery and funding priorities among humanitarian organisations**

K Gambir et al ; <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17441692.2024.2371389>

Review article. “Sexual violence in humanitarian contexts is a global public health issue. Yet, evidence suggests that humanitarian organisations may not always be inclusive of cisgender, heterosexual men and LGBTIQ+ survivors in their responses. **This scoping review examines the extent to which global organisations focusing on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) address the needs of cisgender, heterosexual men and LGBTIQ+ survivors in service delivery and funding priorities....**”

### **Health Economics Review - Untangling the corruption maze: exploring the complexity of corruption in the health sector**

Margit Sommersguter-Reichmann et al;

<https://healthconomicsreview.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s13561-024-00530-6>

Review. “...**The review spotlights criminal actions by individuals and networks and marks a notable shift towards systemic misconduct within specific types of corruption.** The findings highlight the necessity of customized anti-corruption strategies throughout the healthcare sector”

### **Plos GPH - Community engagement in research addressing infectious diseases of poverty in sub-Saharan Africa: A qualitative systematic review**

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003167>

By Z Birhanu Koricha et al.

## SS&M - Psychedelic public health: State of the field and implications for equity

H Kuiper et al; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953624005872>

**“Psychedelics are a relevant new area of importance for public health.** Their potential benefits may contribute to improvements in major public health issues and potential harms from their use require attention. **Public health currently has little involvement in the psychedelic field and collaboration is minimal between Schools or Programs of Public Health and established Psychedelic Research Centers. Recognition of and active engagement with Indigenous people, traditions, and wisdom is low in current academic psychedelic activity.** Public health can fill important gaps in current psychedelic science and practice for community and population-level health promotion, harm reduction, disease prevention and equity.”

## P4H - New Framework Aims to Assess Domestic Financing for Health Policy and Systems Research

I Hwang; <https://p4h.world/en/new-framework-aims-to-assess-domestic-financing-for-health-policy-and-systems-research/>

With focus on South-East Asia.

**“A Health System StrA Health System Strengthening Accelerator supported pilot sought to identify the challenges faced by HPSR institutions (HPSRIs) in Asia and develop a preliminary framework responsive to those challenges, which can support HPSRIs to assess funding opportunities and promote domestic financing for HPSR in Southeast Asia.** The work is co-led by the P4H Network and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research with Seoul National University (SNU) as an implementing partner. “

“From October 2022 to September 2023, the SUN team, led by Professor Soonman Kwon conducted a **mixed-methods study in two Southeast Asian Countries – Thailand and Vietnam –** to understand the landscape of HPSRIs in the region, the respective research environments, and funding allocations for HPSR. .... **The final conceptual framework incorporated six key aspects of domestic funding for HPSR to be assessed – theme, institutionalization, funder, HPSRI (funding recipients), performance, and core values....”**

## Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology - Trends and levels of the global, regional, and national burden of appendicitis between 1990 and 2021: findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021

GBD 2021 Appendicitis Collaborator Group;

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langas/article/PIIS2468-1253\(24\)00157-2/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langas/article/PIIS2468-1253(24)00157-2/fulltext)

Among the findings: **“... Slow but promising progress has been observed in reducing the overall burden of appendicitis in all regions. However, there are important geographical variations in appendicitis incidence and mortality, and the relationship between these measures suggests that many people still do not have access to quality health care.** As the incidence of appendicitis is rising in many parts of the world, countries should prepare their health-care infrastructure for timely, high-quality diagnosis and treatment....”

### SSM Health Systems - The process of developing and piloting a tool in the Maldives and Zimbabwe for assessing disability inclusion in health systems performance

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2949856224000072>

By Hannah Kuper et al.

### HP&P - The cost of inaction: a global tool to inform nutrition policy and investment decisions on global nutrition targets

<https://academic.oup.com/heapol/advance-article/doi/10.1093/heapol/czae056/7715732?searchresult=1>

by S Jain et al.

### Health Promotion International - Outcomes of co-designed communities of practice that support members to address public health issues

<https://academic.oup.com/heapro/article/39/4/daae080/7710996?login=false>

By Sanne H Elbrink et al. “Communities of practice are commonly used to support members in responding to public health issues. **This study evaluated the outcomes of five co-designed communities of practice to determine if members’ expectations were met, if knowledge sharing between members extended to knowledge translation, and if that supported members in addressing public health issues.....**

## Tweets (via X & Bluesky)

### Themrise Khan

“Sick of all these dialogues, convenings etc. on #aid #globaldev #humanitarianism The world is literally collapsing. Rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer. But donors #INGOs think tanks are still wasting money “bringing people together” to talk. #stophiscrap.”

### Tiberius (@ecomarxi)

“Sat morning: Israeli massacre, Western politicians in full support; Sat afternoon: Israeli massacre, Western politicians in full support; **Sat night: Trump’s ear shot, Western politicians denounce all violence; Sun morning: Israeli massacre, Western politicians in full support”**

### Fifa Rahman

“Lots of people struggling to get into Germany for the IAS. That conference should have been **boycotted from the start. No conferences in genocide-supporting countries.** It’s bad enough that the Gazans face the onslaught of their bombs. And this week Black and brown people facing the

indignities of their visa policies. It's not a global health conference if the global majority can't come and it's a sea of white faces."

### **Sania Nishtar**

**"A new era of immunisation began this week with the agreement of the Abidjan declaration - a commitment to self-sufficiency and vaccine sovereignty** that sits at the heart of the @Gavi model. Thank you to all those who have welcomed us in Abidjan and participated in a hugely productive visit for the Vaccine Alliance"