

IHP news 788: Taking a short summer break

(2 August 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,

In this **last IHP issue before a short summer break**, we'll come back on the [Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit](#) in Rio de Janeiro (29-30 July), **World Hepatitis Day** (28 July), a Devex [article](#) with an update on the **Women in Global Health** commotion (together with some other global health governance news), a [Lancet Commission on dementia](#), ... Yesterday **World Breastfeeding Week** (1-7 August) started. And if you haven't heard from "[Oropouche](#)" yet, chances are that might change in the coming weeks (though we hope not). (*And no, it's not 'Scaramouche'* 😊)

Meanwhile, with **UN negotiations on a framework tax convention** [having started again](#) in New York, it's perhaps good to briefly come back on the **G20 finance ministers' meeting** from last week in Brazil where **tax justice** was also fairly prominent. Starting from a [tweet from Rutger Bregman](#): "*WOW amazing news! The G20 finance ministers have finally agreed to work on effectively taxing the billionaire class. Still a long way to go, but this an important milestone. Congrats @gabriel_zucman, who's done more than anyone to make this happen.*"

We agree with the Dutchman. It's first and foremost **progressive economists** (like Zucman, Piketty, ...), together with relentless activism from **Tax Justice Now**, Oxfam and others, who have been pushing for this. Sadly, **Global Health entities** (*certainly the (super-) PPP & Gates-friendly bunch among them*) have been largely missing in action, while **at least since the global financial crisis they should've – enthusiastically - joined global tax justice (and global health) activists**. Yet, with a few exceptions, they failed to do so, ever focusing on 'rich countries' in their replenishments, far less on 'very rich people'. Only post-pandemic, some of them have slowly been changing their ways, and even then reluctantly. But **it's not too late for Global Health to now jump on the bandwagon**. The time is surely now for the "GAVI's and CEPI's of this world" to move at last to "the right side of history" (*a term I'm in general cautious with*). By way of example, linking ['The Starting Line' summer campaign](#) (by Gavi & the Gates Foundation) to raise awareness about unequal access to vaccines around the world (with the help of some global football stars), **with global tax justice** sounds to me like an, *euhm*, "open goal" 😊.

More in general, as Monbiot argued in a Guardian op-ed this week, [all support will be needed to turn this tax on billionaires into reality](#). As opposition remains fierce... So here's to hoping that the likes of Suzman (somewhere in the multiverse) & John-Arne Røttingen (in this universe) start saying this as well and are no longer just plain 'weird' on tax justice – surely we need to 'Go Beyond Philanthropy' in the year 2024, including [for political reasons](#). Let's also hope that the **Global Health 2050 report**, to be launched in Berlin at this year's World Health Summit, will have a full chapter on 'going after the billionaire class' in order to help finance Global Public Goods (including many global health causes)! (*for that to happen, I'm afraid they'll have to get rid of Larry Summers in the Board though* 😊).

PS: the next IHP issue is scheduled for Friday 23 August. Till then!

Enjoy your reading.

Kristof Decoster

Highlights of the week

World Hepatitis Day (28 July)

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hepatitis-day/2024>

“World Hepatitis Day, observed on 28 July, raises awareness of viral hepatitis, an inflammation of the liver that causes severe liver disease and cancer. This year’s theme is: It’s time for action. With a person dying every 30 seconds from a hepatitis-related illness, we must accelerate action on better prevention, diagnosis, and treatment to save lives and improve health outcomes.....”

The Lancet Gastroenterology & Hepatology (Editorial) - Viral hepatitis: time for action

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langas/article/PIIS2468-1253\(24\)00240-1/fulltext?dgcid=tlcom_carousel1_ed24_whod_langas](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langas/article/PIIS2468-1253(24)00240-1/fulltext?dgcid=tlcom_carousel1_ed24_whod_langas)

“July 28 marks World Hepatitis Day. WHO's *Global Hepatitis Report 2024*, released earlier this year, painted a stark picture of the global burden of viral hepatitis. 1·3 million people died from viral hepatitis in 2022: an increase from 2019 estimates, and second only to COVID-19 as the leading communicable cause of death. In the same year, around 2·2 million individuals were newly infected with hepatitis B or C and an estimated 304 million were living with these viruses: both lower than 2019 estimates, but largely attributable to improved data quality and availability. “

“As [outlined in a previous Editorial](#), we have the tools to eliminate viral hepatitis as a public health threat by 2030, but efforts to do so are not on track. Action is needed now if we are to change the trajectory. Viral hepatitis must be made a priority both on global health and domestic agendas. A renewed focus on the [most highly burdened countries](#) is essential, scaling up testing, treatment, and prevention. Funding remains a major challenge, and maximising the use of existing sources and exploring novel funding mechanisms are crucial to finance scale-up. But **the cost-saving nature of elimination is clear; data suggest that for every dollar invested now, an estimated US\$2–3 will be saved in 5–7 years.....”**

Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit (Brazil, 29-30 July)

CEPI - Global Summit reinvigorates efforts to prepare for future pandemics

<https://cepi.net/global-summit-reinvigorates-efforts-prepare-future-pandemics>

Excellent & must-read **press release** from one of the organizers of this Summit.

“The Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit 2024, co-hosted by Brazil’s Ministry of Health, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz (Fiocruz) and CEPI, concluded today in Rio de Janeiro with a strong call for global leaders to reignite efforts to transform the world’s ability to prepare and respond to future pandemics.....”

“Spanning two days of discussions from over 80 expert speakers, the landmark event discussed lessons from COVID-19 and the progress made and challenges faced as the world strives to be better prepared to face down future pandemic threats rapidly and equitably. Conversations centred around efforts to ramp up disease surveillance, regional manufacturing and access to health tools and countermeasures that could combat epidemic and pandemic threats in as little as 100 days. The ambitious 100 Days Mission, spearheaded by CEPI and embraced by G7 and G20 nations, seeks to develop vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics against a novel viral threat in just over a three-month period. Other discussions delved into whether the world is ready for a zoonotic influenza pandemic, how climate change is heightening epidemic risk, pandemic financing and the latest developments with the Pandemic Agreement negotiations.”

“In recognition of the need for strengthened preparedness and greater equity, organisations based in the Global South signed the [Rio de Janeiro Declaration](#) at the Summit. The statement, spearheaded by Fiocruz, calls for greater collaboration between partners within the Global North and Global South to overcome disparities in access to health tools and countermeasures in low- and middle-income countries. The Declaration also urges global health partners to prioritise research and equitable access policies to focus on end-to-end R&D and support the establishment of the Alliance for Regional and Local Production, Innovation and Access, as discussed within Brazil’s G20 Presidency framework.”

PS: **“The Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit 2024 was co-designed with global health partners FIND, the International Pandemic Preparedness Secretariat (IPPS), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), Unitaid and the World Health Organization (WHO).....”**

PS: The press release also **lists five other important preparedness developments** from the summit.

Among others: “ (1) Summit co-host **Brazil’s Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz has [joined CEPI’s growing network of vaccine producers](#)** in the Global South... (2) Summit partner **FIND has [launched the Pathogen Diagnostic Readiness Index](#)** (PDxRI), a comprehensive tool for evaluating diagnostic preparedness by assessing the global availability of diagnostics for 21 pathogens with outbreak-, epidemic- and pandemic potential. (3) The **Regionalized Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative**, an initiative supported by CEPI, the World Economic Forum and the US National Academies of Medicine, has **[announced its new strategy](#)** to support the establishment of regional vaccine manufacturing and supply chain networks to produce vaccines for routine use, with readiness for manufacturing of outbreak vaccines. (4) A **[new clinical trial](#)**, funded by CEPI and the Canadian

Institutes of Health Research, will take place in the Democratic Republic of Congo and neighbouring countries assessing whether **post-exposure vaccination could protect against mpox.**"

HPW - Brazil Pandemic Summit Underscores the Global Gaps in Preparedness

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/brazil-pandemic-summit-underscores-the-gaps/>

With some **key quotes from various speakers**. Views of Tulio de Oliveira, Mike Ryan, Richard Hatchett, Priya Basu and many others.

"As climate change drives disease outbreaks, the world remains ill-prepared for another pandemic – lacking in collaborative surveillance, diagnostic tools and finance, speakers told the Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit (GPPS) in Brazil. The two-day summit, attended by a global who's who of pandemic experts, aimed to "reinvent the momentum for pandemic preparedness and response" – but it also offered a sober assessment of global shortcomings."

"The WHO is responding to 42 graded emergencies, 15 of which are Grade Three emergencies requiring international assistance, said Dr Mike Ryan, the WHO's Executive Director of Health Emergencies."

"According to the non-profit organisation FIND, of 21 pathogens with outbreak potential, SARS-CoV-2 is the only pathogen for which there is adequate diagnostic readiness. FIND [launched its Pathogen Diagnostic Readiness Index](#) (PDxRI), a comprehensive tool for evaluating diagnostic preparedness at the summit. "Fast, equitably distributed diagnostics are essential to spot & stem an emerging pandemic. FIND have a partnership-driven, five-year roadmap for diagnostic readiness to achieve the [100 Days Mission](#). But this requires \$100 million in seed funding," said FIND's Dr Marta Fernandez Suarez."

R Hatchett (CEPI) : **"If a new coronavirus were to emerge, there is the potential we could respond in 100 days. But if a new disease were from the Paramyxovirus or Orthopoxvirus family, we'd likely not be ready yet.** Importantly, we are moving in the right direction – but to reach the 100 Days Mission we need to advance capabilities with medical countermeasures and globalise access to these technologies. "

"...The Pandemic Fund's Priya Basu said that the World Bank had been able to mobilize \$2 billion in seed capital from 28 contributors to start the fund and seen "tremendous demand, and good quality projects". During the first round of funding last year, projects "really focused on coordination and collaboration across different arms of government – health, finance, agriculture, animal husbandry, livestock, environment, all coming together" But demand has far outstripped available finances, with the Fund having raised \$850 million but received high quality proposals worth \$7 billion."

And some more links:

- [CEPI \(news\) - Mobilising Brazil's manufacturing might to support vaccine production in the Global South](#)

“One of the largest vaccine manufacturers in Latin America, Brazil’s Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz, is the latest partner to join CEPI’s network of vaccine manufacturers in the Global South working to support faster and more equitable responses to future emerging infectious disease threats.

The inclusion of Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz in CEPI’s manufacturing network will significantly boost vaccine production efforts in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which will help increase the manufacturing capacity available to make vaccines in response to epidemic and pandemic threats. **With a US\$17.9 million (approx. R\$92 million) investment from CEPI, the organisations will collaborate to diversify Bio-Manguinhos/Fiocruz’s existing vaccine manufacturing capabilities by expanding new rapid-response mRNA and viral vector vaccine technology platforms against outbreak diseases.** The funding will also optimise manufacturing processes and technological capabilities to strengthen regional vaccine supply, as well as enhance end-to-end capabilities such as ‘fill-and-finish’ of vaccines.....”

- [CEPI - Creating sustainable pathways to regional vaccine manufacturing](#) (by Dr. Frederik Kristensen, Managing Director of the **Regionalized Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative**)

“Today, I’m delighted to **be launching the Regionalized Vaccine Manufacturing Collaborative’s – RVMC - [strategy](#) for the next three years.**” “RVMC was founded in 2022 with a collective mission to improve vaccine equity and health security around the world through the establishment of regional vaccine manufacturing and supply chain networks. So far in 2024 we have created a full-time Secretariat hosted by CEPI, and published a comprehensive [Framework Report](#) on what it will take to realise our mission. **We’re launching this strategy at a time of considerable interest and activity around regional vaccine manufacturing.** Spurred on by the deep inequities in vaccine access experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the past two years has seen a surge in public and private investments in regionalized vaccine manufacturing.....”

“RVMC’s approach will **encompass four cross-cutting roles** that recognise RVMC’s position in the space between regions, aggregating regional developments and understanding how these interplay with the evolving global system: **Advocating for change; Aligning partners for impact; Advising on sustainable approaches; Accounting for progress.**” Check out the respective goals for all 4 of these.

PS: “ Through our **2024-27 implementation period, we will primarily focus our efforts on the African, Latin American and Southeast Asian Regions.**”

- CEPI - [The 100 Days Mission - how close are we?](#)

“... **two years on from CEPI’s rallying call for the world to join together on this mission, it’s fair to ask: if there were to be a novel or re-emerging Disease X outbreak now, is the global health security ecosystem closer to being ready and able to respond effectively within just 100 days?** The answer is that it depends.....”

- [Find - Pathogen Diagnostics Readiness Index \(PDxRI\)](#)

“the launch of our **Pathogen Diagnostic Readiness Index, revealing alarming gaps in global diagnostic readiness for pandemic threats.....** “ The **Pathogen Diagnostics Readiness Index (PDxRI)** is a comprehensive tool and index for evaluating diagnostic preparedness by assessing the availability of diagnostics globally. The tool aims to highlight the global availability of diagnostic tools, raise awareness about existing gaps in the diagnostic technology landscape, and guide investments for the future development of diagnostic tools. **The first version of the tool includes**

data on pathogens for outbreak-, epidemic-, and pandemic-prone diseases, providing valuable insights into preparedness to respond to potential outbreaks. Based on technology landscape data curated by FIND, the index highlights areas where immediate attention is needed.....”

CEPI and WHO urge broader research strategy for countries to prepare for the next pandemic

<https://www.who.int/news/item/01-08-2024-cepi-and-who-urge-broader-research-strategy-for-countries-to-prepare-for-the-next-pandemic>

“The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) and the World Health Organization (WHO) today called on researchers and governments to strengthen and accelerate global research to prepare for the next pandemic. They emphasized the importance of expanding research to encompass entire families of pathogens that can infect humans—regardless of their perceived pandemic risk—as well as focusing on individual pathogens. The approach proposes using prototype pathogens as guides or pathfinders to develop the knowledge base for entire pathogen families.”

“At the Global Pandemic Preparedness Summit 2024 held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, WHO R&D Blueprint for Epidemics issued a [report](#) urging a broader-based approach by researchers and countries. This approach aims to create broadly applicable knowledge, tools and countermeasures that can be rapidly adapted to emerging threats. This strategy also aims to speed up surveillance and research to understand how pathogens transmit and infect humans and how the immune system responds to them.....”

PS: “... To facilitate this, WHO is engaging research institutions across the world to establish a Collaborative Open Research Consortium (CORC) for each pathogen family, with a [WHO Collaborating Centre](#) acting as the research hub for each family..... “

Final news snippet/analysis from the Munich AIDS conference (& other HIV related news)

Nature News - Seventh patient ‘cured’ of HIV: why scientists are excited

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02463-w>

“A man in Germany is HIV-free after receiving stem cells that are not resistant to the virus.”

Science News - Landmark trial may herald new era in HIV prevention

<https://www.science.org/content/article/landmark-trial-may-herald-new-era-hiv-prevention>

“Twice-yearly lenacapavir injections provided 100% protection in study in African women.”

HHR - AIDS 2024: Politics and Human Rights

Joseph J. Amon <https://www.hhrjournal.org/2024/07/aids-2024-politics-and-human-rights/>

“The plenary on day 3 of AIDS 2024 had a strong emphasis on HIV, human rights, and politics. Helen Clark, former Prime Minister of New Zealand and Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), gave a rousing talk entitled “Global Health is a Matter of Global Politics”. “

“Clark’s speech highlighted how the “poly-crisis” of conflicts, disasters, and economic challenges impacts global health and hinders the fight against AIDS. Her prescription was for greater collective action through multilateralism, and attention to stigma, discrimination, criminalization, and human rights abuses which are preventing progress towards an end of AIDS by 2030. Clark also spoke of debt crises in low- and middle-income countries and their effect on investments in health, education, and climate change measures, with progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lagging and resulting challenges in reducing poverty, maternal deaths, and ensuring child survival.....”

PS: worth to read the speech in full.

HIV Policy lab - HIV Age of Access Policy Landscape

<https://hivpolicylab.org/aoa>

“The HIV Policy Lab’s July 2024 issue brief “Unlocking Access: Reforming HIV Age of Access for Adolescents in Africa” examines age of access for HIV testing, treatment, and pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in Africa and a human rights framework to support policy reform.”

- Cfr tweet M Kavanagh:

“-16 countries have a higher age of consent for HIV test than for sex; -few countries have specific policy on age for PrEP; Policies MoH can change.”

UNAIDS - Developing the 2030 recommended HIV targets: framing the future of the HIV response

https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/featurestories/2024/july/20240726_2030-target-setting

“UNAIDS has launched the 2030 target-setting process that will provide the framework for the next Global AIDS Strategy. A Global Targets Task Team (GTT) composed of 33 experts from governments, civil society and communities, donors, multilateral organizations and academic public health experts will propose the targets building on the targets set for 2025. The Global Task Team is co-chaired by Chewe Luo, former Director HIV at UNICEF and Michel Kazatchkine, former Executive Director at the Global Fund. The targets and strategy will underpin and inform the June 2026 High Level meeting on AIDS. The 2030 HIV targets will provide milestones within the SDG 2030 targets of reducing new HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths.”

G20 Finance Ministers' meeting in Brazil

As already flagged in last week's issue (and intro), but now with a bit more detail.

G20 Brasil reaches consensus on key communiqué: Tackles taxation and geopolitical issue

<https://www.g20.org/en/news/g20-brasil-reaches-consensus-on-key-communiqué-tackles-taxation-and-geopolitical-issue>

(26 July) "Under Brasil's presidency, G20 puts an end to years without consensus documents. **Finance Track emphasizes urgent need for international tax cooperation, debt relief, financial system reform, and global governance overhaul.**" "The announcement was made by Brasil's Finance Minister Fernando Haddad on July 26 in Rio de Janeiro."

"According to the minister, **the documents signed by G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Presidents** emphasize Brazilian priorities. **They specifically mention including the taxation of the super-rich on the international agenda, increasing funding for ecological transitions, strengthening Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), supporting indebted nations, and promoting global governance reforms.....**"

- You find **all documents** here: <https://www.g20.org/en/documents/documents-resulting-from-the-3rd-g20-finance-ministers-and-central-bank-governors-meeting-rio-de-janeiro-25th-and-26th-of-july-2024>

Do check out in particular 'The Rio de Janeiro G20 Ministerial Declaration on International Tax Cooperation'.

G20 Brazil - In a historical declaration, G20 ministers commit to reducing inequalities

<https://www.g20.org/en/news/in-a-historical-declaration-g20-ministers-commit-to-reducing-inequalities>

(23 July) "In Rio, **G20 ministers issued the "G20 Ministerial Development Declaration to Reduce Inequalities"**. The document solidifies the countries' commitment to sustainable development and inclusive policies, highlighting the importance of international cooperation to counter global inequalities....."

More on Global tax justice & Global development/Health/Climate financing

Guardian - 'Morally, nobody's against it': Brazil's radical plan to tax global super-rich to tackle climate crisis

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/28/brazil-radical-plan-tax-global-super-rich-tackle-climate-crisis>

"A 2% levy would affect about 100 billionaire families, says the country's climate chief, but the \$250bn raised could be transformative...."

"...Proposals to slap a wealth tax on the world's super-rich could yield \$250bn (£200bn) a year to tackle the climate crisis and address poverty and inequality, but would affect only a small number of billionaire families, Brazil's climate chief has said. Ministers from the G20 group of the world's biggest developed and emerging economies are meeting in Rio de Janeiro this weekend, where [Brazil's proposal for a 2% wealth tax on those with assets worth more than \\$1bn](#) is near the top of the agenda...."

PS: **"... the lack of overt opposition does not mean the tax proposal is likely to be approved. Many governments are privately sceptical but unwilling to publicly criticise a plan that would shave a tiny amount from the rapidly accumulating wealth of the planet's richest few, and raise money to address the pressing global climate emergency...."**

"Janet Yellen, the US Treasury secretary, [told journalists in Rio](#) that the US "did not see the need" for a global initiative. ..."

PS: **"Some economists have argued that the idea was more likely to be accepted if the proceeds were [devoted to solving the climate crisis](#) than if they were used to address global inequality. Other experts say at least some of the money should be used for poverty alleviation...."**

The Guardian view on UN tax talks (Editorial): Labour must repudiate the stance of the last government

[Guardian](#);

"Britain has a historic responsibility to back global attempts to properly regulate the world of offshore financial centres."

"..... Over the next three weeks, 193 UN member states in New York will thrash out draft terms of reference for a convention that seeks the biggest overhaul of global tax rules for a century. Many countries, led by the African Group, are seeking a right to tax economic activity where it takes place. If enacted, this could see the convention, legally binding on contracting states, to require multinational corporations to pay tax where they employ staff and do real work, instead of in tax havens where they hide profits."

PS: In the current (tax) situation, “... **Poor nations, desperate for cash to deal with environmental and fiscal crises, are the biggest losers.** Lower-income countries’ tax losses (\$47bn) are equivalent to half of their public health budgets.....”

Social Europe - Developing tax rules for a globalised world

Alex Cobham; <https://www.socialeurope.eu/developing-tax-rules-for-a-globalised-world>

Update by Tax Justice Now’s Alex Cobham. “**The member states of the European Union are among the biggest losers of revenue from cross-border tax abuse by multinational companies and wealthy individuals.** EU citizens consistently **identify** the fight against such abuse as a priority for their governments and the EU has repeatedly **advanced** leading proposals. Yet these have consistently foundered on **opposition from the United States** via the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development or from **individual EU members** seeking to benefit from undermining the tax base of their neighbours. **Over the coming fortnight, the draft terms of reference will be finalised for the negotiation of a comprehensive United Nations convention which would provide the biggest overhaul of international tax rules for a century.** EU governments will now have to show their cards: either they will commit to the global process, knowing it is the best chance to curb the hundreds of billions lost to tax abuse each year, or they will seek to sabotage progress. There is a great deal to be won, and the EU is likely to be the biggest winner of all—if it seizes the opportunity.....”

“**Common cause could be found with the Africa Group and the G77, with the prospect of common benefits.** EU members would be among [the largest winners in revenue terms](#) from putting an end to cross-border tax abuse, while G77 members would benefit most from re-establishing a fair distribution of [global taxing rights](#).....”

So far, **the US is blocking progress.** “The [US opposition](#) seems to be based on a desire **to maintain the dominance of the OECD....”** And **Germany, it appears.**

- Related: **Project Syndicate** – [What International Tax Negotiations Should Achieve](#) ? (by J A Ocampo)

Climate Home News (Comment) - The world needs a new global deal on climate and development finance

M Malik; <https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/07/18/the-world-needs-a-new-global-deal-on-climate-and-development-finance/>

“ **A more effective framework led by the UN could involve a binding financial target, a role for emerging economies and consolidation of funds.**”

Quote: “... Taking these elements together, **is it time now to drop the voluntary framework of ODA crafted in the last century to meet the problems of the last century? Can countries come together now to agree a new framework for official climate and development assistance, with a binding commitment for rich countries to finally meet the 0.7% national income promise by, say, 2030?”**

Project Syndicate - A Neglected Solution to the Development-Finance Gap

M Mohieldin & C Melamed; <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/data-neglected-tool-for-attracting-private-capital-improving-resource-allocation-by-mahmoud-mohieldin-and-claire-melamed-2024-07>

“Governments, banks, and investors have neglected a critical tool in the development-finance toolbox. New technologies allow for easy access to data that earlier generations could only dream of, yet they are not being used nearly enough to attract more capital or improve the efficiency of current spending...”

“...This should be an easy sell, because investments in data pay off many times over. One [recent study](#) suggests that projects focused on strengthening data systems return an average of \$32 for every \$1 invested, whether through doubling tax revenues, raising billions in new private-sector investments, or achieving greater efficiency in the allocation of available resources. If anything, AI and other data-driven technologies will supercharge this process, making such investments even more productive....”

Global Fund

Flagging a few interesting reads from the latest Global Fund Observer:

GFO - Climate change and global health: The Global Fund’s new catalytic investment proposal

<https://aidspan.org/climate-change-and-global-health-the-global-funds-new-catalytic-investment-proposal/>

“The article discusses a proposal by the Global Fund to establish a new investment priority focused on the intersection of climate change and health for 2023-2025 grants. This proposal aims to help countries adapt to and mitigate the health impacts of climate change, particularly on HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, and overall health systems. If approved, the proposal would allow the Global Fund to provide targeted resources for climate-related health interventions in vulnerable regions, marking a significant shift in global health funding strategies and recognizing the link between climate change and global health outcomes.”

GFO - Global Fund: Do your homework on Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health!

<https://aidspan.org/global-fund-do-your-homework-on-resilient-and-sustainable-systems-for-health/>

“A critique of the Global Fund’s approach to health systems strengthening, it delves into various reports generated by the Global Fund on Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health (RSSH) to examine what it is not saying and what it needs to do rather than be prescriptive. The article is in the context of the Global Fund Strategy Committee meeting on July 10, 2024, which reviewed the working of the RSSH component.”

More on Global Health Governance & Financing

Devex - Meet the candidates for WHO's top job in Africa

<https://www.devex.com/news/meet-the-candidates-for-who-s-top-job-in-africa-107925>

(gated) **“Four men are vying for the role of the next regional director of the World Health Organization’s Africa office. During a candidates' forum, they worked to set themselves apart from the others.”**

“African ministers of health will vote by secret ballot on whom to nominate during closed door meetings at the end of August. That nomination will then be submitted to WHO’s executive board in January for final confirmation, and the new regional director will take on the role in February.”

As already known, there are **no female candidates for the WHO regional director for Africa role.**

“The [four male candidates wishing to become the next WHO regional director](#) for Africa outlined their priorities before the region’s health ministers during a candidates forum last week. the candidates presented many similar priorities, including helping the continent adapt to the impact of climate change on health systems and preparing for health emergencies. They also worked to set themselves apart from each other.”

“But they seem to forget something equally important: Sexual and reproductive health and rights, which is facing a moment of global backlash including in many parts of Africa. An oversight, or the result of having zero women in the line up?....”

Lancet Letter -Inequity in sustainable health today

Juan Garay et al (on behalf of the Steering Committee of the Sustainable Health Equity Movement) [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01339-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01339-4/fulltext)

“.... Wealthier nations’ stockpiling and profiteering [during the pandemic] led to an open letter to the UN, supported by over 120 entities representing five million public health professionals and advocates for the universal right to health. This letter called for ethical global leadership through a Global Health Equity Task Force within WHO to coordinate a comprehensive, equity-focused pandemic response. The letter emphasised fair resource allocation; an international framework ensuring equitable access to vaccines, diagnostics, and medicines; and strengthened universal health-care systems. The letter garnered endorsements from numerous former heads of state, ministers, and global health advocates, emphasising the urgent need for an equitable pandemic response and giving rise to the Sustainable Health Equity Movement (SHEM)....”

This letter provides an **update on SHEM now, a few years later.**

“Today, SHEM's mission remains urgent SHEM must hence intensify and expand its call for the ethical principles of equity through a deep transformation of global, national, and local political, economic, and knowledge governance to uphold human democracy, peace, justice, and dignity, preserving human life in balance with other forms of life on this shared planet....”

Globalization & Health - Faster and farther towards the abyss: global health accelerators instead of tangible changes

Jens Holst; <https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-024-01050-y>

“Global health accelerators have become the leading expression of global health engagement and policy. While accelerators seem to be the strategy of the moment, the term is meaningless and devoid of any statement of content. Moreover, acceleration can make social processes too fast to be subject to rational control or governance, especially in an era of (un-)social media, which makes the pace of communication and information. Under the dominance of neoliberalism, acceleration and accelerators pose a particular risk because they encounter a situation in which mankind is moving away from solving vital challenges and addressing their root causes. The fashionable emergence of accelerators cannot inspire confidence in the future trends in global health unless they actually result in tangible change and new approaches to tackling systemic challenges.”

Devex - Exclusive: Probe finds Women in Global Health had ‘toxic’ environment

<https://www.devex.com/news/exclusive-probe-finds-women-in-global-health-had-toxic-environment-107784>

“Devex obtained a copy of an investigation into the U.S.-based nonprofit Women in Global Health, which found it had a “toxic” environment.”

Some excerpts:

“... The organization, which was founded in 2015 to challenge “power and privilege in global health,” started out with volunteers but grew rapidly in recent years and now has an annual budget of [\\$3.7 million](#) and 58 chapters globally, accounting for about [6,500 members](#). But a whistleblower complaint from seven Black women put the microscope on its own practices and exposed the organization to serious allegations including bullying, harassment, racial discrimination, toxic work environment, bias, and lack of equal pay. A subsequent investigation into the leadership of its co-founder and then-executive director, Dr. Roopa Dhatt, was followed by her dismissal in May. “

“... Devex obtained a copy of the findings of the investigation commissioned by the board last year which gives greater insight into the underlying currents beneath the upheaval. It found the organization had a “toxic” work environment and evidence of a “white supremacy culture” — which the investigator, [Mirna Martinez Santiago](#), defined as traits such as power hoarding and a sink-or-swim mentality. ... “Many of you felt the need to make yourselves ‘smaller’ to placate other people’s egos,” wrote Santiago to whistleblowers, and “made to feel like the ‘help’ — there to assist other people’s successes, but never to own any successes yourself.” But Santiago found other allegations, such as bullying and harassment, to be unfounded....”

““I have spent my life working with and for women to achieve gender equality which will benefit women and benefit everyone and it requires consistent vulnerability and a need to balance the urgency for change with creating a context where everyone feels like they belong and can contribute to the movement,” [Roopa] Dhatt told Devex, adding that she took the whistleblower complaint seriously.”

“... in **some ways, WGH may have grown too quickly**, a former board member told Devex. “Sort of like overnight, nearly, there were 50 to 60 chapters around the world — and there was no real quality control in relation to the chapters,” the person said. While some former board members said they raised concerns to Dhatt and made efforts to strengthen governance, they said they were met with resistance....

“... The board hired Santiago to investigate. She found a toxic environment — which she defined as aggressive leadership, cliquish behavior, microaggressions, unrealistic workloads, low pay, and an atmosphere of fear, among other things. Santiago also found evidence of a “white supremacy culture” — which she defined as a focus on perfectionism, fear of reprisal, urgency, defensiveness of existing structures, power hoarding, a sink-or-swim mentality, and emphasis on quantity over quality, among other things. She wrote that many organizations, particularly American ones, “fall victim” to this, even when led by people of color. Santiago found **accusations of bullying and harassment were unfounded**, and wrote that instead, **it appears Dhatt was demanding, micromanaging, and used communication shortcuts**. Santiago wrote that **senior fellow Ann Keeling**, who joined in 2017, appeared to act as “de facto” co-executive director under an undefined agreement that “allows her to do pretty much anything she feels fit to do within the organization.” Between Dhatt and Keeling, the organization appeared to suffer from “Founder’s Syndrome,” Santiago wrote, where leaders are “paralyzing progress through micromanagement.”...”

PS: “... **not everyone agreed with the investigation’s findings. Rachel Thompson, a former senior adviser to the organization, who resigned after Dhatt’s dismissal, told Devex it was the “most fulfilling job” she’d had, working with “inspiring, kind and supportive colleagues.”** Another volunteer, who worked with the organization from 2018 to 2020, said Dhatt is an “amazing transformational leader” who knows how to “positively influence those around her to want to invest in the vision.” **Dhatt and Keeling declined to comment on the substance of the whistleblower complaint and subsequent findings of the investigation.”**

PS: “**Women in Global Health has since restructured its leadership to no longer include an executive director. Lalla-Maharajh resigned. Responsibilities are now shared across a [five-person team](#), and Ghanaian [Irene Alaya Adogboba](#) was appointed as coordinating director. The organization is recruiting more board members, including a chair. While senior leadership previously led board recruitment, chapter members can now submit applications and a chapter panel is developing a short list. It’s also appointed two women-owned enterprises to lead its investigation into past operations and plans to discuss findings with chapters in November. And while the past 11 months have shaken the organization’s core, it is important it survives this as it plays a crucial role in combating gender inequity that other organizations haven’t filled**, a former board member said.”...”

Women in Global Health – WGH Movement Building process

<https://womeningh.org/wgh-movement-building-process-the-power-of-collective-action/>

“Results of #WGH Movement Building Process are out now! A collaborative journey driven by #inclusive participatory methodologies, reiterates the movement's common purpose and #collaborative dynamics.”

“In 2025, our movement will be 10 years old. There are more of us than ever, in 58 chapters in 53 countries. As we continue to grow, it’s vital that we build a robust foundation for our future. This is why **in 2023, we embarked on the Movement Building Process – an iterative, collaborative journey**

driven by broad and inclusive participatory methodologies. The process engaged nearly 100 members from 44 Chapters, our Board and our global team. Together we developed a shared Mandate outlining core values and a unified vision, a global Theory of Change framework and an Organizational Model promoting non-hierarchical collaboration....”

Devex - Opinion: Gender equality in salaries is another frontier for global health

T L Baird & K Buse ; <https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-gender-equality-in-salaries-is-another-frontier-for-global-health-107971>

“Increased gender balance in global health organizations’ leadership represents hard-won progress, but it is not enough. **Pay equity is next, and that means women need to lead larger organizations.**”

Based on findings from the **latest Global Health 50/50 report.**

Africa CDC and Africa Public Health Foundation Forge Strategic Partnership to Strengthen Health Systems

<https://africacdc.org/news-item/africa-cdc-and-africa-public-health-foundation-forge-strategic-partnership-to-strengthen-health-systems/>

“The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and Africa Public Health Foundation (APHF) have signed an agreement to support strengthening health systems in Africa Union Member States. APHF was established to enable investments in public health activities that support Africa CDC’s goals and objectives across the continent. It’s main operational vectors include resource mobilisation, grants management, advocacy for improved policies, private sector engagement and contributing to the analysis of public health data....”

TGH – The PEPFAR Files: The Fate of the HIV Program

E Bass; <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/pepfar-files-fate-hiv-program>

Third and last part in the series on PEPFAR. “**A guide to what’s worked for PEPFAR and how to apply it to other global health security objectives.**”

The article “ **offers a closing argument about what should happen, whether or not PEPFAR has been undermined by critics. PEPFAR needs a five-year reauthorization to support the HIV fight and to protect a unique modus operandi that may be crucial to future global health responses.** Such an assessment should **not be used to design or launch a twin PEPFAR for global health security.** In fact, the stakeholders interviewed by Think Global Health were nearly unanimous that **another "big bet" was infeasible** given current political divisions, competing climate and conflict crises, and the challenges in mobilizing major, bipartisan support for prevention investments where success means that nothing happens.”

“**Instead, the broader thought was for a close examination of PEPFAR's core components to identify how they've affected budgeting, results, and meaningful civil society engagement.** PEPFAR has **lessons and approaches in these three areas** that are not in operation in any other U.S. global health investment. Such an examination should look at the factors that enabled these impacts, including the **program's organizational structure, budget size and flexibilities, and**

relationships with the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government and with host country governments. This readout should be a practical guide to the PEPFAR elements that have relevance for other programs, identifying what's worked and explaining how to apply it to other global health security objectives. The goal would not be to find places where PEPFAR itself does more. Instead, it would be to ensure that practical approaches—including reporting tools, data platforms, and resourcing of social accountability mechanisms such as community-led monitoring—are identified and adapted when relevant to other health security areas, including but not limited to antimicrobial resistance, pandemic preparedness, and frontline health workforce capacity. Such an analysis would be highly relevant to U.S. government investments in pandemic preparedness and response through the World Bank–housed Pandemic Fund, its formal [Global Health Security \(GHS\) partnerships and related capacity-building work](#). Both entities rely heavily on the Joint External Evaluation (JEE), a two-part voluntary exercise that includes an internal country-led self-evaluation, as a basis for monitoring and reporting on progress.”

Bloomberg Philanthropies Data for Health Initiative Collects More than 28 Million New or Improved Birth and Death Records Since 2015

<https://www.bloomberg.org/press/bloomberg-philanthropies-data-for-health-initiative-collects-more-than-28-million-new-or-improved-birth-and-death-records-since-2015/>

“Through robust partnerships with local governments and global organizations, the Initiative saves and improves lives with **better health data collection; Bloomberg Philanthropies makes a \$150 million reinvestment and the Gates Foundation contributes an additional \$40 million to support the Initiative.**”

“Bloomberg Philanthropies announced today **the Data for Health Initiative has supported partners to collect 12.2 million birth records and 16.2 million new or improved death records, for a collective 28.4 million new or improved records across 31 countries.** Since its inception in 2015, the Data for Health Initiative has **partnered with governments in low- and middle-income countries to gather accurate public health data.**”

“**Bloomberg Philanthropies announced it will invest an additional \$150 million in the Initiative and the Gates Foundation will contribute an additional \$40 million investment.** The commitments support the continued collection of birth and death data, establishment of cancer registries, training, technical assistance and a new focus on refugee and internally displaced populations. **In total, \$436 million has been committed to the Initiative since its launch.....**”

WHO - India commits US\$ 85 million to WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre

<https://www.who.int/news/item/31-07-2024-india-commits-usd-85-million-to-who-global-traditional-medicine-centre>

“...At a signing ceremony in Geneva, the Government of India committed US\$ 85 million over 10 years, 2022–2032, to support the programming of the WHO Global Traditional Medicine Centre. India’s 10-year financial contribution will support a cross-sectoral program of work to strengthen the evidence base for traditional medicine by providing data and evidence on traditional medicine policies, practice, products, and public use.”

“The **WHO-India donor agreement is part of a US\$ 250 million investment from India in support of the establishment of the WHO Global Centre of Traditional Medicine in 2022**, which includes financial support for the workplan of the Centre, interim premises and a new building....”

Pandemic Agreement & other PPPR updates

Via the **World Health Summit News**(letter):

Ilona Kickbusch: Trust, transparency and politics in pandemic diplomacy

“For a short while there was hope that the negotiations for a pandemic agreement would turn the page and learn from the factors that had generated problems in the intergovernmental negotiating body (INB) process – on top of all the political and technical issues that still need to be resolved. The revised International Health Regulations (IHR) had been adopted at the World Health Assembly (WHA) and the INB meetings on July 16 and 17 at the WHO started with a sense of optimism on finding better decision-making processes - but they ended without the strong collective drive for solutions that many had hoped to achieve. **Trust between countries has not yet been restored.** The pandemic is ever more distant. **The political will seems lacking. Discussion on increasing the participation of relevant stakeholders in the INB process showed this clearly. Developing countries are concerned that invited experts might be too close to the interests of developed countries (coming from their top-notch universities) – or too close to industry interests. China, Russia and Nigeria argued against increased transparency and the participation of non-state actors in the INB closed sessions. Some developing countries challenged the INB timeframe for its contradictions and felt pressured by developed countries: why a sense of urgency to push to conclude by November yet a refusal to meet in August?** Meanwhile outside of conference rooms, opposition groups who fear a loss of sovereignty are challenging their governments to opt out of the IHR, others fear a powershift in the USA and want to complete the INB negotiations before this, and yet others fear the next pandemic. **Clearly, it is politics that will define the INB process and the future of a pandemic accord”**

Related:

- TWN – [WHO: Two rounds of negotiations ahead aimed at early conclusion of pandemic agreement](#)

Also with a section on **Participation of Stakeholders and Experts.**

Response to proposals for ‘protocols’ of the Pandemic Agreement pursuant to Articles 19 and 21 of the WHO Constitution

by M Eccleston-Turner, C Wenham et al.

https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/sites/internet/files/2024-07/GHC_Response-to-proposals-for--protocols--of-the-Pandemic-Treaty-pursuant-to-Articles-19-and-21-of-the-WHO-Constitution.pdf

Arguing among others ‘...Member States should continue to work towards a clear, detailed and self-contained text (including annexes), rather than leaving key aspects of the agreement to be negotiated at some later point in time as protocols.’

WHO _ New initiative launched to advance mRNA vaccine development against human avian influenza (H5N1)

[https://www.who.int/news/item/29-07-2024-new-initiative-launched-to-advance-mrna-vaccine-development-against-human-avian-influenza-\(h5n1\)](https://www.who.int/news/item/29-07-2024-new-initiative-launched-to-advance-mrna-vaccine-development-against-human-avian-influenza-(h5n1))

“A new project aiming to accelerate the development and accessibility of human avian influenza (H5N1) messenger RNA (mRNA) vaccine candidates for manufacturers in low- and middle-income countries has been launched today. The Argentinian manufacturer Sinergium Biotech will lead this effort leveraging the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP) mRNA Technology Transfer Programme.”

“The mRNA Technology Transfer Programme, jointly developed by WHO and MPP, was launched in July 2021 with the aim to build capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) for the development and production of mRNA-based vaccines. Sinergium Biotech, a partner in the mRNA Technology Transfer Programme, has developed candidate H5N1 vaccines and aims to establish proof-of-concept in preclinical models. Once the preclinical data package is concluded, the technology, materials, and expertise will be shared with other manufacturing partners, aiding the acceleration of the development of H5N1 vaccine candidates, and bolstering pandemic preparedness efforts...”

- See also Stat - [Bird flu snapshot: Upstart manufacturers in low- and middle-income countries to start early vaccine work](#)
- Coverage via HPW - [WHO Reaches Deal with Argentinian mRNA Vaccine Developer to Produce a Low-Cost Avian Flu Jab](#)

“The agreement marks the first time that a vaccine developer has actually volunteered know-how to the hub, which was founded by WHO in 2021 together with the Medicines Patent Pool, and is hosted by the South African firm Afrigen, based in Cape Town.....”

“... H5N1 is first vaccine target for the hub since COVID-19: ... the agreement by Sinergium to share its IP and partner directly with the WHO co-hosted hub is a breakthrough for the global health agency – which has long sought a role in the emerging mRNA vaccine market – to reduce costs and make vaccines more accessible in low- and middle-income countries. **The new agreement signed with a Latin-American based firm also takes a small, but meaningful, step towards the ‘regionalization’ of vaccine markets, WHO officials said on Monday.....**”

Reuters - Drugmaker Sinergium to share bird flu vaccine data globally, says WHO

<https://www.reuters.com/business/healthcare-pharmaceuticals/drugmaker-sinergium-share-bird-flu-vaccine-data-globally-says-who-2024-07-29/>

“Bird flu vaccine developer Sinergium Biotech will share its data with manufacturers in low and middle-income countries to help to accelerate a fair rollout if a pandemic occurs, the World Health Organization said on Monday. The Argentine private sector biopharmaceutical company is at an early stage of developing mRNA vaccines against the H5N1 virus and has **pledged to share its findings with a network of partner manufacturers set up by the WHO** during the peak of COVID-19 to help poorer countries to gain access to life-saving medical tools. **Until now, the WHO has assisted**

partners but this is the first time one of them with a vaccine in development has volunteered to share it with others.”

PS: “.... While Friede (WHO) acknowledges that the likes of Moderna and Pfizer would be able to produce vaccines much more quickly than manufacturers in the WHO programme, he said that **the scheme would allow Sinergium's partners to begin production reasonably quickly and help to keep poorer countries from being reliant on handouts....**”

Lancet World Report - Understanding pandemic risks: the WHO Pandemic Hub

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01591-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01591-5/fulltext)

“Founded amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the WHO Hub for Epidemic and Pandemic Intelligence hopes to strengthen global surveillance but faces substantial challenges. By Udani Samarasekera.”

“...Officially launched by then German Chancellor Angela Merkel and WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the Hub had start-up funding of €90 million from the German Government. Berlin was chosen as **the location** in part because of this support. But Ihekweazu says the WHO Pandemic Hub is “a hub for the world in Berlin and, in reality, **most of our work is targeted at capitals of countries around the world**”, **the national decision-making centres.** Berlin was also selected because of its **proximity to WHO's Geneva headquarters.** **The Hub is part of WHO's Health Emergencies Programme,** which analyses information daily to make decisions on whether to respond to an outbreak or to call the world's attention to a new risk. “We work very closely with our colleagues in the head office in Geneva”, says Ihekweazu.....”

“The WHO Pandemic Hub will have 80 full-time staff by the end of 2024. But space is available for 40 external visitors from other countries or academics working on the same issues as the Hub. **Connecting, innovating, and strengthening pandemic and epidemic intelligence are the themes of work....**”

Also with the **view of various experts on the progress of the Hub so far.** And **they also highlight major obstacles.**

Among others: “The Hub has “enormous challenges to achieve its lofty ambition”, notes **Gostin.** “As WHO itself recognises, global intelligence is reliant on robust national health systems. Yet most countries still lack core health-system capacities required under the International Health Regulations. WHO or its hub in Berlin do not have nearly enough resources to help build, maintain, and evaluate national surveillance and laboratory capacities”, he highlights. **Todd** (Pandemic Action Network) agrees that deep inequality between countries is a major challenge. “Disparities in health infrastructure and resources between countries hinder effective data sharing and response efforts—political leadership is needed to bridge these gaps both for the Hub and pandemic prevention more broadly”, she says. But currently, financing is scarce. “The World Bank's Pandemic Fund is under-resourced and lacks credibility in many lower-income countries”, Gostin notes. Furthermore, Germany, the Hub's initial backer, has not guaranteed long-term resources for health-system strengthening, he says.”....”

The World report concludes: “.... **But with a receding pandemic and multiple competing interests, keeping world leaders interested in collaborative surveillance might be the first task.** Experts are

keen to see the Hub thrive L Gostin: WHO's Pandemic Hub is “vitally important for global health security”, he says.”

Devex - How a new vaccine candidate could outpace Lassa fever's deadly grip

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-a-new-vaccine-candidate-could-outpace-lassa-fever-s-deadly-grip-108042>

“The inaugural Phase 2 Lassa fever vaccine clinical trial, supported by CEPI and IAVI, commenced in Nigeria and Liberia.”

“In April, the inaugural Phase 2 Lassa fever vaccine clinical trial officially commenced in Nigeria. Supported by CEPI, the [Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations](#) and the [International AIDS Vaccine Initiative](#), or IAVI, it is the most advanced Lassa vaccine trial to date.”

“Richard Hatchett, CEO of CEPI, said it represents “an important milestone in public health and signals that better tools to manage and prevent outbreaks are coming.” The world urgently needs a Lassa vaccine for routine immunization, Hatchett added in [a press release](#).”

PS: “... Developed by IAVI, the Lassa fever vaccine candidate uses the same platform — the recombinant vesicular stomatitis virus, or rVSV, vector platform — as Merck’s single-dose vaccine against the Ebola virus, which is now licensed in North America, Europe, and 10 African countries. ...”

Mpox

BMJ (Feature) - Mpox: two years on

<https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q1554>

“Two years on from the global “monkeypox” epidemic, the disease now called mpox remains dangerous, reports Chris Baraniuk.”

Re ‘two clades and a variant’; some good news – including: “The fact that we’re picking up evidence of diverse strains of the monkeypox virus is a sign that surveillance is improving, says Lao-Tzu Allan-Blitz, associate epidemiologist at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. “ And “... work is being carried out on new vaccines specific to mpox. ...”

“Treatment options for mpox, however, are limited... “

- And via [Stat](#): **Mpox vaccine trial to start in three African countries**

“Researchers from McMaster University in Canada are planning a clinical trial to test whether receiving Bavarian Nordic’s mpox vaccine can protect people who’ve been exposed to the infection from getting sick or reduce the severity of the illness. The trial will launch next month in the Democratic Republic of Congo and will later include participants in Uganda and Nigeria. The

researchers received \$4.9 million (U.S.) from the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, per a [CEPI press release](#). The trial’s results could be critical to combat mpox in the DRC.... The study will invite over 1500 participants over the age of 10 from households with a confirmed mpox infection to participate.”

“CEPI and Bavarian Nordic also have a [separate clinical trial](#) that will launch later in the year testing the mpox vaccine in children ages 2-12.

Telegraph - New mpox strain infects 130 children at DRC displacement camps

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/new-mpox-strain-infects-at-least-130-children-drc-goma/>

“The outbreaks in the camps around Goma – a major hub for aid workers – raise fears that the virus could cross international borders.”

Mpox outbreaks declared in Kenya and Central African Republic

<https://www.euronews.com/health/2024/08/01/mpox-outbreaks-declared-in-kenya-and-central-african-republic>

“New outbreaks of mpox have been declared in Kenya and the Central African Republic as Africa’s health officials race to contain the spread of the disease in a region lacking vaccines.”

Oropouche

AFP - What we know about Oropouche virus after first deaths

<https://news.abs-cbn.com/lifestyle/health-wellness/2024/7/27/what-we-know-about-oropouche-virus-after-first-deaths-842>

From last week. “ **The first-ever deaths from the Oropouche virus**, a little-known disease spread by the bites of infected midges and mosquitoes, **have been recorded in Brazil**. Two women under 30 years old from the Brazilian state of Bahia have become the first known people to have died from the virus, Brazil’s health ministry said on Thursday....”

PS: **Oropouche is part of the arbovirus family**, which includes Zika and dengue.

BMJ - Oropouche fever: Latin America on high alert for virus that can cause stillbirths

<https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q1667>

“Doctors in Latin America have been instructed to be on high alert for cases of pregnant women with **Oropouche fever**, which is spreading more rapidly in Latin America and could be causing stillbirths and birth defects.....

AMR

BMJ Editorial - Antimicrobial resistance: action must shift towards prevention

R E Glover et al ; <https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q1644>

“Better water and sanitation are preventive and come with important co-benefits.”

“The scale of the problem has led the UN general assembly to convene a high level meeting on AMR during its **79th session in September 2024**. The aim leading up to the meeting will be to draft, and then agree on, a political declaration on AMR, possibly linked to high level targets that can be used globally. **In the run-up to this meeting, many international organisations, including the World Bank, have put forward their preferred AMR policy options.**”

“The past decade of global AMR policy has largely focused on technological or market based solutions, many of which have been underwhelming, failed to materialise, or not delivered equitable gains. This World Bank report, along with others, shifts the focus towards prevention and the key tenets of public health, which aligns better with the needs identified by experts working in relevant contexts. For example, Ramanan Laxminarayan of One Health Trust wrote: “We can prevent infection, so that we don’t have to have antibiotics, and we don’t have to worry about AMR in the first place.” **Infection prevention and control, vaccination, and better water and sanitation infrastructure are incontrovertibly effective and come with numerous benefits beyond AMR. Any AMR mission that focuses on the foundations of global public health, such as those in this report, is likely to gain broad support at the UN general assembly.....”**

Lancet GH – The role of humanitarian actors in global governance for AMR

Carine Naim et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(24\)00319-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(24)00319-X/fulltext)

« Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is reshaping how humanitarian medical organisations deliver lifesaving aid. Within Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), we see a concerning rise in the prevalence of multidrug-resistant (MDR) organisms across contexts where we work, such as natural disasters, armed conflicts, and populations living in acute poverty. As such, there are fewer antimicrobial treatment options for vulnerable patients and those remaining are prohibitively expensive. But adequately addressing AMR involves decades of preventive planning and action, ranging from vaccination campaigns to local capacity building for microbiology. Consequently, MSF faces the difficult but surmountable challenge of integrating longitudinal AMR planning into our emergency responses. To curb AMR, humanitarian organisations must include AMR transversally and systematically and define their role in AMR. Yet, global funding for humanitarian organisations to include AMR programming is scarce. Looking ahead to the September, 2024, UN High-Level Meetings on AMR, UN member states must include humanitarian perspectives to efficiently allocate AMR funding going forward and address this existential challenge adequately and comprehensively.”

“... AMR will require a reimagining of the humanitarian health mandate and its unique role in global health. In the 21st century, overlapping crises such as climate change, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and AMR require a nimble and immediate response coupled with a long-term strategic vision. Although preventive efforts like vaccinations and IPC programmes must be

maintained and reinforced across humanitarian contexts, **we would like to see humanitarian medical organisations commit to expanding antimicrobial stewardship, surveillance, and IPC programming across all medical interventions.** Notwithstanding the ostensible novelty of this request, **the integration of systemic health problems into the humanitarian mandate is not without precedent.....”**

“... Global governance initiatives, like the UN High-Level Meetings, should place special attention on how AMR manifests for the most disadvantaged communities in the declaration and build a framework for stronger involvement of humanitarian responses to AMR. Countries must also recognise that conflict settings increase the prevalence and transmission of AMR infections....”

Cidrap News - WHO warns of increase in hypervirulent, multidrug-resistant *Klebsiella* strains

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/antimicrobial-stewardship/who-warns-increase-hypervirulent-multidrug-resistant-klebsiella-strains>

“The World Health Organization (WHO) is warning countries about increasing reports of hypervirulent and multidrug-resistant *Klebsiella pneumoniae* (hvKp). The **warning is based on a global assessment the WHO conducted through its Global Antimicrobial Resistance and Surveillance System (GLASS), which issued a request for information earlier this year to all countries enrolled in the system after receiving reports of increased identification of hvKp isolates in several countries. Of the 43 countries and territories that responded to the WHO request, 16 reported the presence of hvKp strains.”**

Paris Olympics

Devex - France's bid to use the Olympics to advance the SDGs

<https://www.devex.com/news/france-s-bid-to-use-the-olympics-to-advance-the-sdgs-108037>

This took place the day before the opening ceremony. **“Heads of state and the International Olympic Committee gathered to commit money and rhetoric to spreading sports across the world. But will that be the change the global south is actually looking for?”**

“The day before the official opening ceremonies of the Paris Summer Olympic Games, French President Emmanuel Macron and the [French Development Agency](#), or AFD, hosted the first Sport for Sustainable Development Summit, bringing in dozens of heads of state to discuss how sports can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals.....”

“Speaking to Devex before the gathering, **AFD CEO Rémy Rioux** told Devex: “For decades, we said that sport was not that serious an issue, and probably countries, they have to deliver other investments before having the capacity to do sports.” But **the message from Thursday’s summit, he said, is more nuanced. “Sports could be part of the fabric of SDGs way more ambitiously at an earlier stage, and that’s not naive.”** “Before an audience of [International Olympic Committee](#) members and heads of state, global development heavy hitters such as [World Health Organization](#) head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus and [UN Women](#) Executive Director Sima Bahous

shared the stage with paralympians, IOC President Thomas Bach, and Spanish basketball legend Pau Gasol. Many echoed the Olympic motto: Faster, higher, stronger. But **the summit took pains to point out specific areas of development that sports can be mobilized to improve: Health, of course, but also education, the inclusion of women and people living with disabilities, and sustainability.....**”

- And a link: [Guardian - Extreme ‘heat dome’ hitting Olympics ‘impossible’ without global heating](#)

“The “heat dome” causing scorching temperatures across western Europe and north Africa, and boiling athletes and spectators at the [Olympic Games](#) in Paris, would have been impossible without human-caused global heating, a rapid analysis has found. **The World Weather Attribution group** was behind the analysis. ...”

Adolescent girls & intimate partner violence

WHO - Adolescent girls face alarming rates of intimate partner violence

<https://www.who.int/news/item/29-07-2024-adolescent-girls-face-alarming-rates-of-intimate-partner-violence>

“Among adolescent girls who have been in a relationship, nearly a quarter (24%) – close to 19 million - will have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence by the time they turn 20 years old, as highlighted by [a new analysis](#) from the World Health Organization (WHO) published today in *The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health*. Almost 1 in 6 (16%) experienced such violence in the past year.....”

“... While violence against adolescent girls occurs everywhere, **the authors highlight significant differences in prevalence. Based on WHO’s estimates, the worst affected regions are Oceania (47%) and central sub-Saharan Africa (40%),** for instance, while the lowest rates are in central Europe (10%) and central Asia (11%). **Between countries, there is also a substantive range: from an estimated 6% adolescent girls subjected to such violence in the least affected countries, to 49% in those with the highest rates.** “

“The new analysis found that intimate partner violence against adolescent girls is most common in lower-income countries and regions, in places where there are fewer girls in secondary school, and where girls have weaker legal property ownership and inheritance rights compared to men. **Child marriage (before the age of 18 years) significantly escalates risks,** since spousal age differences create power imbalances, economic dependency, and social isolation – all of which increase the likelihood of enduring abuse.”

PS: “... **To address the issue,** WHO stressed the urgent need to strengthen and support services and early prevention measures geared towards adolescents. This should be accompanied by actions to advance women’s and girls’ agency and rights, including school-based programmes to educate both girls and boys on healthy relationships and violence protection, legal protections and economic empowerment.....”

Conflict/war & health

Lancet - A manifesto on improving cancer care in conflict-impacted populations

Dr Tedros et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01023-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01023-7/fulltext)

“The first Global Summit on War and Cancer took place on Dec 14–16, 2023, organised by the Institute of Cancer and Crisis and OncoDaily. It brought together people and organisations committed to addressing cancer in conflict-impacted areas, with renowned experts (health-care professionals, policy makers, and patient advocates) **developing a key manifesto**. The **manifesto on improving cancer care in conflict-impacted populations has seven key recommendations.....”**

“ The importance of addressing cancer in humanitarian settings has now been recognised by WHO at the recent Global High-Level Technical meeting on NCDs in Humanitarian Settings. Although there is still much work to be done, there is now political willingness and engagement from the wider community to serve this crucially underserved cancer population.....”

Public Health Challenges - Public Health Word of the Year 2023 — Conflict

Don Eliseo Lucero-Prisno III et al ; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/puh2.220>

“The term “conflict” resonated throughout 2023, echoing prolonged civil wars and heightened global tensions in geopolitical disputes, escalating ongoing rifts among global communities, and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. **This article explores the complex relationship between conflicts and public health, providing a thorough analysis of their dynamics and current prevalence.”**

People’s (Health) Dispatch - Sudan’s health crisis, from war zones to refugee camps

<https://peoplesdispatch.org/2024/07/21/sudans-health-crisis-from-war-zones-to-refugee-camps/?ref=peoples-health-dispatch.ghost.io>

“The health crisis in Sudan has reached critical levels due to the widespread destruction of hospitals, collapsed sanitation infrastructure, and mass displacement of the population.”

- Related: [UN News – Healthcare in Sudan ‘hanging by a thread,’ warns UN agency](#)

“The **UN World Health Organization (WHO) on Monday** strongly denounced the increasing attacks on healthcare facilities in Sudan, reporting over 20 such incidents in the last two months.”

- [UN News - Famine now prevalent in parts of war-torn Sudan](#)

“Famine is now prevalent in areas of war-torn Sudan and will continue through the next two months, according to a **new global food insecurity report released on Thursday.**”

UN News - WHO to send one million polio vaccines to Gaza to protect children

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152551>

From end of last week. “The UN health agency said [last week] on Friday that it is sending more than a million polio vaccines to Gaza after the discovery of the highly infectious disease in sewage samples.”

“World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom

Ghebreyesus announced that the vaccines will be administered to children in the coming weeks.

He noted that no cases of polio have been recorded yet but without immediate action, it was “just a matter of time before it reaches the thousands of children who have been left unprotected””

- Related: [UN News - Gazans need polio vaccines amid ‘deathly cycle’ of hunger, heat and disease, say UN aid agencies](#)

Al Jazeera- Polio epidemic declared in Gaza in latest sign of worsening health crisis

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/7/29/polio-epidemic-declared-in-gaza-in-latest-sign-of-worsening-health-crisis>

On Tuesday. “Gaza’s health ministry calls for ‘immediate intervention to end the aggression and find radical solutions’ to the health emergency.”

Links:

- [HPW - WHO Evacuates 85 Sick and Injured Gazans to UAE via Israeli Airfield Amidst Regional Flareup in Tensions](#)

“... Along with that, **there is a mounting water, sewage and sanitation crisis in Gaza** – exacerbated by the recent Israeli army explosion of a large water reservoir in Rafah.”

- [AP - Lice, scabies, rashes plague Palestinian children as skin disease runs rampant in Gaza’s tent camps](#)

Commercial determinants of health

Plos GPH - Dynamics of combatting market-driven epidemics: Insights from U.S. reduction of cigarette, sugar, and prescription opioid consumption

Eszter Rimányi, G Yamey et al;

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003479>

“... **this review introduces the definition of market-driven epidemics (MDEs)**, which arise when companies aggressively market products with proven harms, deny these harms, and resist mitigation

efforts. **MDEs are a specific within the broader landscape of commercial determinants of health. ...**”

“... We selected three illustrative MDE products reflecting different consumer experiences: cigarettes (nicotine delivery product), sugar (food product), and prescription opioids (medical product). based on these epidemics, we describe five MDE phases: market expansion, evidence of harm, corporate resistance, mitigation, and market adaptation. ...”

The authors then make suggestions on how to use an MDE lens to curtail these deadly, destructive epidemics.

Mental Health

Nature Medicine (News) - Anxiety, depression, headaches — is political polarization bad for your health?

A Makri; <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-024-03136-x>

“As growing evidence shows that engagement with politics is associated with worsening mental and physical health, a bumper election year and increasing polarization could affect millions....”

Lancet Commission on dementia

Lancet Commission - [Dementia prevention, intervention, and care 2024](#)

“The 2024 report of the Lancet Commission on dementia prevention, intervention, and care adds compelling new evidence that untreated vision loss and high LDL cholesterol are risk factors for dementia. Overall, around 45% of cases of dementia are potentially preventable by addressing 14 modifiable risk factors at different stages during the life course. The 2024 Commission update also provides updates on advances in fluid biomarkers for detection of Alzheimer’s disease, new definitions for diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease, as well as progress on disease-modifying treatments....”

PS: The commission is affiliated with University College London.

- Cfr the **press release** re the [Dementia prevention, intervention, and care: 2024 report of the Lancet standing Commission](#) :

“The Lancet: Nearly half of dementia cases could be prevented or delayed by tackling 14 risk factors starting in childhood, including two new risks—high cholesterol and vision loss”

“Vision loss and high cholesterol add to 12 previously identified modifiable risk factors for dementia, concludes a new report from the 2024 Lancet Commission.”

“The potential to prevent and better manage dementia is high if action to tackle these risk factors begins in childhood and continues throughout life, even in individuals with high genetic risk for dementia. **New report outlines 13 recommendations for individuals and governments to help reduce risk**, including preventing and treating hearing loss, vision loss, and depression; being cognitively active throughout life; using head protection in contact sports; reducing vascular risk factors (high cholesterol, diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure); improving air quality; and providing supportive community environments to increase social contact....”

- Related Lancet Comment: [Pivotal points in the science of dementia risk reduction](#)

“...The Commission's estimate of dementia attributable to modifiable risk factors has increased from 40% to 45% since 2020...”

- Coverage via Stat - [Vision loss and high cholesterol identified as risk factors for dementia](#)
- And the Guardian - [Almost half of dementia cases could be prevented or delayed, study finds](#)

“... The number of people living with dementia globally is forecast to nearly triple to 153 million by 2050, and researchers warn this presents a rapidly growing threat to health and social care systems. [Global health](#) and social costs linked to dementia exceed \$1tn (£780bn) a year, the research shows.”

“...The findings were presented at the Alzheimer’s Association international conference in the US.”

“... Livingston said there was also new evidence that showed reducing the risks of dementia not only increased years of healthy life but also reduced the time people who developed dementia spent in ill health....”

PS: “In a separate study [published in the Lancet Healthy Longevity journal](#) alongside the commission, researchers modelled the economic impact of implementing some of these recommendations, using England as an example...” “They found public health interventions that tackled the risk factors could yield £4bn in savings by reducing dementia rates and helping people live longer and healthier....”

World Breastfeeding week (1-7 August)

UN News –More support for breastfeeding could save 820,000 young lives annually, UN agencies say

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/07/1152721>

Cfr joint statement - [On World Breastfeeding Week, UNICEF and WHO call for equal access to breastfeeding support](#)

“The heads of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO) have called for greater access to breastfeeding support to both reduce health inequity and ensure mothers and babies can survive and thrive. “

“... “When mothers receive the support they need to breastfeed their babies, everyone benefits. **Improving breastfeeding rates could save over 820,000 children’s lives each year, according to the latest available data,”** they said. “**In the last 12 years, the number of infants under six months of age globally who are exclusively breastfed has increased by more than 10 per cent. This means 48 per cent of infants worldwide now benefit from this healthy start in life,”** the agency chiefs said.

“ Although this represents a significant leap closer to the **WHO target of increasing exclusive breastfeeding to at least 50 per cent by 2025, persistent challenges remain which must be addressed....”** “ An estimated 4.5 billion people – more than half the world’s population – do not have full coverage of essential health services, they said. As a result, many women do not receive the support they need to optimally breastfeed their babies, which includes “trained, empathetic and respectful health advice” as well as counselling. Data also needs to be available on policy actions that make breastfeeding possible, they added, such as family-friendly employment policies, regulation of the marketing of breastmilk substitutes and investment in breastfeeding. The agency chiefs stressed that **when breastfeeding is protected and supported, women are more than twice as likely to breastfeed their infants,** and “this is a shared responsibility.”

Medicalised female genital mutilation

Lancet Editorial –Medicalised female genital mutilation must stop

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01592-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01592-7/fulltext)

“... **To reach the Sustainable Development Goal 5.3 target of eliminating the practice by 2030, progress would need to be 27 times faster than achieved in the past decade; if current trends continue, FGM will remain widespread....”**

“...**Elimination of FGM has primarily focused on the role of traditional cutters—community elders with no medical training. What has been largely ignored in FGM elimination campaigns is the increasing role played by trained medical professionals. An estimated 52 million girls and women have been subjected to FGM at the hands of health-care workers—one in four cases. This medicalisation is gaining traction. Sudan, Egypt, and Indonesia have some of the [highest percentages of medicalised FGM](#). The involvement of health-care workers not only promotes the false belief that FGM is safe, but also normalises and thereby perpetuates the practice, hindering elimination. **Why do health-care workers become complicit in harmful mutilation?....”** With some reasons being mentioned.**

The editorial concludes: **“Global actors such as WHO and the World Medical Association strongly condemn FGM medicalisation but what matters most are countries’ actions. The lack of government measures to address FGM and enforce bans need to be called out.** As respected members of their communities, health-care workers must uphold the principles of medical ethics

and be advocates against FGM in all its forms. **The medicalisation of FGM is not a harm-reduction strategy—it is a violation of medical ethics and human rights.”**

More on access to medicines, vaccines & other health technologies

Cidrap News - WHO prequalifies Biological E novel oral polio vaccine

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/polio/who-prequalifies-biological-e-novel-oral-polio-vaccine>

“Biological E, a vaccine and pharmaceutical company based in India, announced today that the World Health Organization has prequalified its novel oral poliovirus type 2 (nOPV2) vaccine, a next-generation vaccine for battling circulating vaccine-derived poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) outbreaks.....”

WHO Bulletin (Editorial) - Measuring access to essential medicines in the sustainable development goals

K Jenei & V Wirtz; <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC11276153/?report=classic>

“The World Bank and World Health Organization (WHO) estimate that medicines account for up to 70% of out-of-pocket spending, and such spending is a major driver of financial hardship. Despite the barrier medicines pose to achieving universal health coverage (UHC), data to monitor the global situation are lacking. The United Nations (UN) Inter-Agency and Expert Group on sustainable development goal (SDG) indicators started a comprehensive review of the indicators ahead of the 56th United Nations Statistical Commission in 2025. The group announced that indicators with less than 30% data coverage may be subject to deletion, placing the indicator measuring access to medicines at risk of being removed. We call for a renewed commitment to ensure that measuring medicines access does not disappear from the global agenda.....”

“In 2019, the UN adopted indicator 3.b.3 to evaluate access to medicines by measuring the proportion of health facilities with a core set of relevant essential medicines available and affordable on a sustainable basis. Currently, the 3.b.3 indicator has the fewest country contributions among the 28 SDG 3 indicators..... similarly, the lack of data for SDG indicator 3.b.3 has led to its exclusion from the UN Global Sustainable Development Reports, UHC service coverage index and academic efforts measuring progress towards UHC.”

“We offer three reasons for these data gaps”

Authors conclude: **“Keeping indicator 3.b.3 on the global health agenda is crucial as it is the only metric measuring access to medicines. Indicators with low data availability may need the most investments. The 2025 Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDG indicators review is an opportunity to improve data infrastructure and measurement to increase feasibility Recognizing medicines as a major driver of catastrophic health expenditure requires action on measuring progress towards the SDGs. A policy window has opened with the 2025 Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs indicators review that must be used to prevent this indicator from disappearing.”**

US to buy African-made ARVs for Pefar programme

<https://www.medicalbrief.co.za/us-to-buy-african-made-arvs-for-pepfar-programme/>

“America is throwing its weight behind African production of antiretrovirals, with the US President’s Emergency Plan for Aids Relief programme (Pepfar) committing to buying ARVs for 2m African patients from local suppliers, said Stavros Nicolaou, head of strategic trade at Aspen Pharmacare.....”

GAVI (News) - Ada Hegerberg leads unfair football match at the Norway Cup to call for equal vaccine access for all

<https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/ada-hegerberg-leads-unfair-football-match-norway-cup-call-equal-vaccine-access-all>

“Today, Ada Hegerberg and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance gathered young people from around the world at the coveted Friendship Match during the Norway Cup to illustrate how unequal access to vaccines worldwide gives children an unfair start in life.” “This match [in Oslo], however, had a striking difference from usual – one team began the game with more players and a clear advantage. Ada soon eased the crowd’s concerns and halted the unfair game. This one-sided game, she explained, symbolised the unfair start some children receive in life due to their unequal access to vaccines....”

“The Starting Line is a summer-long campaign by Gavi and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to raise awareness about unequal access to vaccines around the world following the launch of Gavi’s Investment Opportunity 2026–2030. Today, over 20 million children are missing out on life-saving vaccines, with many countries still lacking consistent access to affordable immunisations. The campaign calls on global decision-makers to help protect more children worldwide against more diseases faster than ever before....”

Stat - 4 takeaways from STAT’s story on the development of malaria vaccines

<https://www.statnews.com/2024/08/01/malaria-vaccines-history-takeaways/>

“For the first time, the world is starting to roll out malaria vaccines to children in sub-Saharan Africa. The story of the development of those vaccines, a decades-long effort that stretched from labs in New York, England, and Belgium to clinical research sites in a number of African countries, is detailed in a [STAT special report](#) published Thursday. Below are four takeaways about what the history of the malaria shots shows about vaccine development, particularly for neglected diseases that primarily affect low-income countries.....”

- The Special report - [Behind the malaria vaccines: A 40-year quest against one of humanity’s biggest killers](#)

Planetary Health

Politico - EU prepares for COP29 showdown with China over climate aid

<https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-call-on-countries-china-fund-climate-action-cop29-united-nations-climate-conference/>

“The EU’s draft position for the summit shows the **bloc arguing that wealthy emerging economies must pay into a climate action fund.**”

“...The draft position also suggests that the EU may push to limit the list of possible beneficiaries or direct more money to countries that are particularly vulnerable to global warming, rather than allow all countries classified as developing to access the same level of funding.....”

“It is not only China that is seen as an able contributor. Wealthy Gulf states, with their own huge legacy of climate damage via sales of their fossil fuel reserves, such as Qatar, UAE and Saudi Arabia, are likely to be pressured to stump up. Singapore will likely receive pressure, as well. In the draft document, the EU also suggests that the bulk of the new target can't come from national budgets, underlining that "private investments will have to undertake the largest share of the required investment in low emissions, resource-efficient and climate-resilient development.”

Global health governance & Governance of Health

CEPI appoints Aurélia Nguyen as Deputy CEO

<https://cepi.net/cepi-appoints-aurelia-nguyen-deputy-ceo>

« **Global health expert Aurélia Nguyen has been appointed Deputy Chief Executive Officer of CEPI**, the global organisation working to accelerate the development of vaccines against epidemic and pandemic threats and make them accessible to populations in need. **Aurélia joins CEPI from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – where she held roles including Chief Programme Officer and Managing Director of the Covax Facility.** Aurélia has a proven track record in driving the design of vaccine programmes and delivery of new vaccines as well as extensive leadership experience with a particular focus on gender and diversity. In her new role as **Deputy CEO she will support CEPI CEO Dr Richard Hatchett and the CEPI team in advancing CEPI’s five-year strategy, known as [CEPI 2.0](#), which will help Prepare, Transform and Connect the world so that it can respond to the next Disease X threat in as little as 100 days.....”**

CGD (blog) - Project 2025 and Development Policy: I Read It So You Don’t Have To

K Mathiasen et al; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/project-2025-and-development-policy-i-read-it-so-you-dont-have>

Update on ultra-scary country, the US. “**Project 2025**, the Heritage Foundation’s policy blueprint, was released in late 2023 but has recently received heightened attention as some of its more extreme ideas have been amplified. I perused the document for content on development policy, looking first at the section on the US Treasury Department, which oversees the multilateral

development banks (MDBs), as well as the chapter on the US Agency for International Development (USAID). Some of the proposals are naïve and others unactionable. **Many would reinstate policies from the Trump administration, especially those designed to counter China, roll back climate programs, and limit access to reproductive health. Special contempt is reserved for all diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)-related initiatives. Here's more on what's in the document:...."**

Among others: US Treasury and Development Policy in a Nutshell: **A (Short) Rant Against Multilateral Agencies**; USAID and Development Policy in a Nutshell: **A (Long) Rant Against China, Climate and Gender Policy...."**

TGH – U.S. Disinformation Plan Put Geopolitics Above Global Health

D Fidler; <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/us-disinformation-plan-put-geopolitics-above-global-health>

"Covert U.S. information operations during COVID-19 expose the dangers that global health faces when rival powers compete."

"The U.S. information operation shines a harsh light on the ways in which today's international politics affect foreign policy thinking about global health. Reuters' reporting underscores how the competition for power, influence, and ideological advantage among nations drags health into the zero-sum vortex of geopolitics. That dynamic batters rhetoric about solidarity and equity as guiding principles in global health and raises hard questions about how countries can mitigate the damage that realpolitik inflicts on collective action against health threats. "

".... In its story, Reuters recounted opposition, based on geopolitical calculations, to the COVID-focused information operations against China from officials at the Department of State. Aware that U.S.-Philippine relations had deteriorated before COVID-19 emerged, U.S. diplomats warned that "stooping lower than the Chinese" through clandestine information operations could jeopardize "Washington's diminishing influence" in Manila and worsen a "withering partnership" already "hanging by a thread." State Department officials preferred a geopolitical do-no-harm approach in responding to China's disinformation and pandemic diplomacy. Authorized by the White House and Congress to engage in secret information operations against rival nations without State Department approval, the Defense Department proceeded with the campaign. It interpreted the troubled U.S.-Philippines relationship as a "call to action" against China's exploitation of the pandemic to gain geopolitical leverage in Southeast Asia and elsewhere. The contrasting positions of the Defense and State Departments illustrate the powerful pull of geopolitical thinking in foreign policy, even amid a once-in-a-century pandemic. ..."

PS: **" The similarities and differences between the Trump and Biden administrations demonstrate that U.S. foreign policy on global health has to navigate between the paranoia of geopolitical **domino theory** and the piety of apolitical **germ theory**. The United States is only a few years into reorienting its foreign policy on global health after COVID-19. But the controversies associated with the Reuters story show that it has not achieved meaningful consensus on the way forward."**

Devex - UK Labour makes fresh aid budget cuts within weeks of taking power

<https://www.devex.com/news/uk-labour-makes-fresh-aid-budget-cuts-within-weeks-of-taking-power-108047>

“The new labour government is poised to reduce FCDO spending by £700 million in 2024-2025 — after extending the practice of diverting aid to pay domestic refugee hotel bills.”

Reuters - UK plans to boost development aid when fiscal circumstances allow, minister says

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/uk-plans-boost-development-aid-when-fiscal-circumstances-allow-minister-says-2024-07-24/>

“Britain's new Labour government aims to restore overseas development spending to 0.7% of economic output when **"quite difficult" fiscal circumstances allow**, development minister Anneliese Dodds said on Wednesday. Dodds told Reuters in an interview on the sidelines of a meeting of G20 finance leaders in Brazil **that development was a "critical priority" for the government, including addressing climate change, poverty, hunger and migration.....**”

Geneva Solutions - Should the UN be worried about the rise of the far right?

M Langrand; <https://genevasolutions.news/global-news/should-the-un-be-worried-about-the-rise-of-the-far-right>

“With the hard right gaining ground across the west, **the future of multilateralism and the UN’s role in global governance faces uncertainty.**”

We particularly liked the last sentence, though: “Despite this, **Cattacin doesn’t think the far right’s winning streak will last. “Like in the 70s, we are in a period of social change, with movements for peace and the ecological crisis driven by very young people,**” he said. “I expect that we will have a completely different political landscape in some years than these reactions of the old against the new world”. Let’s hope so.

Devex Pro - Why do some countries mostly fund their own NGOs?

<https://www.devex.com/news/why-do-some-countries-mostly-fund-their-own-ngos-107973>

(gated) “Donors say that they want to send more money to the global south, but most still have **rules in place that favor their own NGOs.** Why does this happen, and does anything need to change?”

“.... **over 90% of ODA to civil society organizations goes to development groups in the global north. And in some cases, there are rules saying that only NGOs headquartered in a country can receive funds.** In other cases, there are rules and regulations — like having to apply in the native language — which make it prohibitively difficult.....”

Global Policy – The Russia–Ukraine war, the evolving global order, the Global South and emergence of non-alignment 2.0

R Verma et al; <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/1758-5899.13410>

“...The conclusion to the special section argues that the Russia-Ukraine war has led to the emergence of non-alignment 2.0 in the Global South because the Cold War era non-alignment is anachronistic in the current/emerging world order. Non-alignment 2.0 is characterised by countries exercising strategic autonomy to maximise their geo-economic, geopolitical and geostrategic interests. They are neither aligned with the West nor with non-western powers forming a strategic alliance. Consequently, they have been unwilling to choose a side in the Russia-Ukraine war. In non-alignment 2.0, states in the Global South will be critical of both the West and non-western powers including China and Russia if they are unable to provide effective solutions to their problems and will create/provide their own norms and establish their own institutions to solve the problems facing these countries...”

Global health financing

Devex - Remittances outstrip aid 3 times over. Can they transform development?

<https://www.devex.com/news/remittances-outstrip-aid-3-times-over-can-they-transform-development-107952>

(gated) “Remittances are worth nearly three times as much as foreign aid. Can we harness them for development impact?”

“... Such funds, sent by overseas workers, **have become the largest source of external finance** for low- and middle-income countries, **outpacing both ODA and FDI**. Last year, remittances to the global south totaled a chunky \$656 billion, with projections to hit \$690 billion by 2025. For perspective, FDI clocked in at about \$400 billion and ODA at around \$224 billion. But unlike ODA and FDI, which can be fickle, remittances **have shown remarkable resilience**, barely flinching during the COVID-19 pandemic and bouncing back quickly. Over the past eight years, remittances have steadily climbed, increasing by 42.4% from 2016 to 2023. And **this upward trend is likely to continue, driven by factors like climate change, demographic shifts, and income disparities.**”

“So, what’s the big deal? **Remittances significantly boost education, health care, nutrition, housing, and job opportunities for recipients. These funds also provide a steady income source during economic downturns** like the pandemic and conflicts. **It’s not all good news, though**, writes Sophie Edwards for Devex. **Remittances can create inequalities in recipient communities by driving up prices for goods, housing, and land. They can also reinforce migration patterns**, although this effect tends to wane after two generations. **Plus, the high cost of sending remittances remains a major hurdle.** While remittances outperform FDI and ODA, **they aren’t a panacea. FDI is crucial for infrastructure and green investments, and ODA addresses public financing needs and issues like fragility and climate change.** Still, countries should embrace the power of remittances to reduce poverty, finance health and education, and promote financial inclusion...”

UHC & PHC

Lancet GH - From reform to excellence: the future of health care in Egypt

Ahmed El-Sobky et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(24\)00310-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(24)00310-3/fulltext)

“Despite being at the midpoint of the Sustainable Development Goals, the world finds itself far from achieving many of its health-related targets. None of the 53 health-related indicators tracked by WHO have been fully achieved, and current trends suggest that none are on track to be met. **Egypt's health-care reforms provide a relevant case study in this context, offering insights into how a lower-middle-income country can strive toward universal health coverage (UHC) while facing substantial obstacles.....”**

- Link: Plos GPH – [Factors influencing the utilisation of National health insurance program in urban areas of Nepal: Insights from qualitative study](#)

Pandemic preparedness & response/ Global Health Security

American Society of International Law - Global Health Law Reforms: An Update on the Amended International Health Regulations and the Pandemic Agreement Negotiations

<https://www.asil.org/insights/volume/28/issue/7>

By G L Burci et al.

e-International Relations - Solidarity in a Hierarchical World? Rethinking the Ethics of Global Health Governance

Aida Hassan and Andreas Papamichail ; https://www.e-ir.info/2024/07/27/solidarity-in-a-hierarchical-world-rethinking-the-ethics-of-global-health-governance/#google_vignette

With focus on the IHR Amendments & Pandemic agreement (process).

“.... **Both these processes**, aimed at developing and augmenting rules and norms of cooperation to address disease outbreaks—prompted by the devastating global impact of the COVID-19 pandemic—are **couched (at least rhetorically) in terms of various ethical commitments and imperatives that we want to explore in this article, as a lens into the wider ethics of global health governance**. When we speak of **the ethics of global health governance**, we mean the moral principles on which the idea that health issues require some form of collective action are based, and the consequences of these principles on questions of rights, responsibilities, distribution of resources, justice, and so forth. **We look at some of the key amendments proposed (and, in the case of the IHR, adopted) in these two side-running processes of international law and the ethical principles that underpin them. Through this exploration of key ethical questions at the heart of**

the IHR and Pandemic Agreement negotiations, we demonstrate that there are ethical limits to these state-based processes. We do so by drawing attention to the gaps between the *rhetoric* of global health cooperation and solidarity and its *practice*, as well as the systemic dimensions of global ill-health that are left unaddressed by these rule- and norm-setting exercises which take place in an international order shot through with extreme hierarchies of power and resources....”

BMJ GH (Commentary) - Lessons learnt from developing and applying research priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic: reflections from the Global Research Collaboration for Infectious Disease Preparedness (GloPID-R)

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/9/7/e015278>

by E S Antonio et al.

Planetary health

Telegraph - Luxury or lifeline? Why a lack of air conditioning can be deadly

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/climate-and-people/air-conditioning-heatwaves-extreme-heat-climate-change/>

“As temperatures soar across the planet, **billions of people in cities from Bogota to Bangkok cannot afford to keep cool.**” On the global inequity re airco access.

Mongabay - To host 2025 climate summit, Brazil will carve up an Amazonian reserve

[Mongabay;](#)

“In November next year, the 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference, known as COP30, will take place in Belém, in the Brazilian Amazonian state of Pará. Supporters say that holding the event in a city surrounded by rivers and Amazon rainforest carries important political symbolism. Critics highlight the extensive developments that will be needed, some of which could be detrimental to the environment....”

“On June 15, the government of Pará state in Brazil gave the green light for the construction of the new Avenida Liberdade highway in the state capital, Belém, that will split up two conservation areas and run past a traditional Afro-Brazilian community. Government officials say the highway will reduce traffic in the city and improve the lives of millions of urban dwellers, while environmentalists say the construction will fragment the forest, causing changes in the microclimate and threatening the area’s biodiversity. **The construction is part of a series of projects to upgrade infrastructure in Belém ahead of the COP30 climate summit next year, alongside dredging Guajará Bay to make space for ocean liners to address the shortage of hotel rooms in the city.** Hosting the summit in an Amazonian city has significant political weight, yet critics and locals say the city faces logistical challenges to support such a large-scale event.”

Guardian - Global methane emissions rising at fastest rate in decades, scientists warn

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jul/30/methane-emissions-study?CMP=share_btn_url

“Researchers call for immediate action to reduce methane emissions and avert dangerous escalation in climate crisis.” Re a **paper published in [Frontiers in Science](#)**.

ILO (report) - Heat at work: Implications for safety and health

<https://www.ilo.org/publications/heat-work-implications-safety-and-health>

“Heat stress is having serious impacts on the safety and health of workers, as they are exposed to higher daily temperatures as well as more frequent and severe heatwaves. **This report includes an analysis of national legislation to address heat stress from 21 countries across the world, identifying common provisions for workplace level measures.**”

International Relations - Fit for purpose? Climate change, security and IR

M McDonald et al ; <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00471178241268270>

The first articles in an **International Relations special issue on re-rooting International Relations for the Climate** are coming out. This one was the first one:

“As the contributions to this special issue suggest, **IR has had a problematic relationship with environmental issues**. Indeed it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that IR has treated environmental change almost as a distraction from important concerns of global politics, and gives us few significant resources for understanding these challenges or addressing them effectively. This is perhaps most starkly evident in the **subfield of security studies**, despite increasing recognition that environmental change warrants consideration as a security issue. **This paper examines this engagement with a particular focus on climate change. Ultimately, the paper advances two arguments**. First, examinations of the climate change–security relationship located in traditional security studies struggle to come to terms with the nature of the Anthropocene challenge and more specifically with the questions of who needs securing; what the nature of the threat posed is; and who is capable of or responsible for addressing this threat. Second, however, we can see progressive potential in engagement with the security implications of climate change in IR where such scholarship parts ways with traditional accounts of security; does not allow existing configurations of power to define the conditions for thinking about agency and sites of politics; and reflexively and self-consciously draws on insights from beyond the IR discipline. ...”

Guardian - Childhood air pollution directly linked to adult lung health, study says

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/jul/26/childhood-air-pollution-adult-lung-health-bronchitic-symptoms-study>

“Connection found between early exposure and bronchitic symptoms **in adults without previous lung problems.**”

Science News - Down to the bone

[Breathing polluted air increases risk of osteoporosis, growing evidence shows](#)

“There’s growing evidence that **breathing polluted air increases the risk of osteoporosis.**”

BMC Public Health - Health systems response to climate change adaptation: a scoping review of global evidence

Edward Wilson Ansah et al; <https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-024-19459-w>

Concluding: “**Efforts to develop resilient health systems against climate risks are underway, but persistent obstacles**, including inadequate policy implementation, resource limitations, and a lack of integration of climate change into critical health domains, **hinder comprehensive adaptation measures, particularly in developing nations.**”

Guardian - Green economy could generate 3.3m jobs across Africa by 2030 – report

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/article/2024/jul/26/green-economy-could-generate-33m-jobs-across-africa-by-2030-report>

“Policymakers and funders are being urged to invest in training a workforce to serve the industries of the future.”

“A greener economy could bring millions of jobs to some of the largest countries in [Africa](#), according to a new report. Research by the development agency FSD Africa and the impact advisory firm Shortlist predicts that 3.3 million jobs could be generated across the continent by 2030.”

“[Forecasting Green Jobs in Africa](#) predicts that 60% of the roles, mainly in the renewable energy sector, will be skilled or white collar positions that can “spur the growth of the middle class in countries with high-growth sectors” such as renewable energy, e-mobility, construction and manufacturing. The report was based on forecasts from five countries – the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa – that the study says will see more than a fifth of the jobs expected from the green transition over the next six years.....”

Science (News) - Does humidity make heat more deadly? Scientists are divided

<https://www.science.org/content/article/does-humidity-make-heat-more-deadly-scientists-are-divided>

“Studies in climate chambers show humidity adds danger, but analyses of population-wide mortality rates suggest otherwise.”

“Last summer, while the Northern Hemisphere endured record-breaking heat, a paper in *Environmental Health Perspectives (EHP)* generated a stir among scientists who study heat’s risks to health. The paper **pointed out** a startling disconnect between two camps of researchers on

whether humidity makes hot weather more deadly. Physiologists have found strong evidence that humidity matters: at a given temperature, more humidity makes it harder for the body to maintain a safe core temperature and ward off heat stroke. **Epidemiologists**, by contrast, have concluded that temperature alone accurately predicts heat-related death rates; adding humidity does little to improve their predictions.....”

Guardian - Wildfire smoke may increase the risk of dementia, study finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/29/wildfire-smoke-dementia-risk>

“As blazes spew smoke across western US, research shows it may be worse for brain health than other types of pollution.”

The findings were reported on Monday **at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference in Philadelphia.**

Paper - Probability Estimates of a 21st Century AMOC Collapse

E Smolders; https://arxiv.org/html/2406.11738v1?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

“There is increasing concern that the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) may collapse this century with a disrupting societal impact on large parts of the world. Preliminary estimates of the probability of such an AMOC collapse have so far been based on conceptual models and statistical analyses of proxy data. **Here, we provide observationally based estimates of such probabilities from reanalysis data.** Based on the reanalysis products, we next determine probability density functions of the AMOC collapse time. **The collapse time is estimated between 2037-2064 (10-90% CI) with a mean of 2050 and the probability of an AMOC collapse before the year 2050 is estimated to be 59±17%.”**

Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research - Tipping risks from overshooting 1.5 °C can be minimised if warming is swiftly reversed

<https://www.pik-potsdam.de/en/news/latest-news/tipping-risks-from-overshooting-1-5-degc-can-be-minimised-if-warming-is-swiftly-reversed>

“Current climate policies imply a high risk for tipping of critical Earth system elements, even if temperatures return to below 1.5 °C of global warming after a period of overshoot. A new study published in Nature Communications indicates that this risk can be minimised if the warming is swiftly reversed. That is why reducing emissions in the current decade is crucial for the stability of the Earth systems functions, researchers from the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research (PIK), the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and other institutes write. They analysed the tipping risks for four interconnected core climate tipping elements: the Greenland Ice Sheet, the West Antarctic Ice Sheet, the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC), and the Amazon Rainforest.....”

Covid

Lancet Review – Long COVID: a clinical update

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01136-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01136-X/fulltext)

By T Greenhalgh et al. “... In this **interdisciplinary Review**, with a coauthor with lived experience of severe long COVID, we sought to bring together multiple streams of literature on the epidemiology, pathophysiology (including the hypothesised mechanisms of organ damage), lived experience and clinical manifestations, and clinical investigation and management of long COVID. Although current approaches to long COVID care are largely symptomatic and supportive, **recent advances in clinical phenotyping, deep molecular profiling, and biomarker identification might herald a more mechanism-informed and personally tailored approach to clinical care.** We also cover the **organisation of services for long COVID, approaches to preventing long COVID, and suggestions for future research.**”

- And a link: [Guardian – Long Covid health issues persist in those hospitalised early in pandemic, study finds](#)

“Substantial proportion have cognitive and mental health problems years after infection, with some symptoms worsening.”

The work was published in the [Lancet Psychiatry](#).

Cidrap News - Healthy pre-COVID lifestyle may protect against severe infection

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/covid-19/healthy-pre-covid-lifestyle-may-protect-against-severe-infection>

“A University of Oxford-led study links a healthy pre-infection lifestyle to a **36% lower risk of long COVID, a 41% lower odds of death, and 22% lower chance of hospitalization.**”

“The researchers assessed the association of modifiable lifestyle factors (eg, smoking, alcohol use, body mass index, physical activity, time spent in sedentary activities, sleep duration, diet) with long COVID, death, and hospitalization **among 68,896 adults in the UK Biobank cohort who tested positive for COVID-19 from March 2020 to March 2022.....**”

Journal of Virology - The harms of promoting the lab leak hypothesis for SARS-CoV-2 origins without evidence

<https://journals.asm.org/doi/10.1128/jvi.01240-24>

by J Alwine et al.

Globalization & Health - Understanding the secondary outcomes of international travel measures during the covid-19 pandemic: a scoping review of social impact evidence

<https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-024-01064-6>

By Kelley Lee et al.

AMR

WHO Afro - Status of antimicrobial resistance education and awareness in the WHO African Region 2017-2021

<https://www.afro.who.int/publications/status-antimicrobial-resistance-education-and-awareness-who-african-region-2017-2021>

“... To effectively address the gaps related to AMR awareness and education, **the World Health Organization's African Region (WHO AFRO) has released a comprehensive baseline report detailing the state of AMR education and awareness in the African Region, from 2017 to 2021.** The report acknowledges the progress and challenges faced by Member States in the implementation of AMR education and awareness interventions. **Among the key challenges** are the lack of capacity to create, design, and effectively position coherent AMR awareness messages, as well as difficulties in securing sustainable financing. It further makes recommendations on non-cost intensive interventions that can be implemented to address the identified gaps....”

SS&M - An elephant in the room? Explaining agenda-setting in antimicrobial resistance policies in 30 European countries

C S. Vogeler et al ; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953624006178>

“Antimicrobial resistances (AMR) are a challenging cross-sectoral policy problem; Public awareness for AMR is low and the issue is not high on the political agenda; AMR are only addressed by political parties in Northern and Western Europe; Green parties are most likely to address the AMR challenge; AMR are mainly perceived as a problem of the agricultural policy subsystem.”

NCDs

Nature Africa - It's time to put dementia on the African research agenda, scientists say

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d44148-024-00228-1>

“An upcoming Nature conference, will focus on diseases of the elderly.”

“Nature, in collaboration with the Davos Alzheimer’s Collaborative (DAC) and the Aga Khan University, will host **The Future of Dementia in Africa: Advancing Global Partnerships conference in**

Kenya in September 2024. Nature Africa spoke to **Mie Rizig, a clinical senior research fellow at University College London**, and conference Scientific Committee member, about how the event will provide a platform to unite scientists and communities, in the search for accessible solutions.....”

Guardian - Why scientific support for alcohol’s health benefits is fading

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/article/2024/jul/27/why-scientific-support-for-alcohols-health-benefits-is-fading>

“Research exposes flaws of older, often industry-funded studies and finds lowest mortality risk in lifelong abstainers.”

Plos GPH - People and sites as community resources for preventing and managing chronic health conditions: A conceptual analysis

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003415>

By Prachee Agrawal & Seye Abimbola.

Plos GPH - Interdisciplinary perspectives on multimorbidity in Africa: Developing an expanded conceptual model

J Dixon et al; <https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003434>

“This article presents the findings from an interdisciplinary research initiative that drew together 60 academic and applied partners working in 10 African countries to answer the questions: how useful is the concept of multimorbidity within Africa? Can the concept be adapted to context to optimise its transformative potentials? During a three-day concept-building workshop, we investigated how the definition of multimorbidity was understood across diverse disciplinary and regional perspectives, evaluated the utility and limitations of existing concepts and definitions, and considered how to build a more context-sensitive, cross-cutting description of multimorbidity.....”

Guardian - Eating processed red meat could increase risk of dementia, study finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/article/2024/jul/31/eating-processed-red-meat-could-increase-risk-of-dementia-study-finds>

“US researchers say they have uncovered potential link after tracking 130,000 people over four decades.”

Mental health & psycho-social wellbeing

Devex - Opinion: How can we address the mental health crisis?

N Phip; <https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-how-can-we-address-the-mental-health-crisis-107993>

“Supporting better mental health is central to achieving many of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. So, how can policymakers take action and start delivering on their commitments?”

Op-ed related to a recent report by the Economist Impact, commissioned by Boehringer Ingelheim, exploring the state of mental health care in eight [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) countries. The report “[Rethinking mental healthcare: harnessing new approaches](#)” assessed mental health provision in China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. It revealed that each country, regardless of geographic or demographic makeup, faces similar challenges that delay or deter people from accessing care. These include a lack of trained mental health professionals and complex, disjointed services that vary in quality and availability, particularly for those living outside of major cities. Additionally, these services are often underpinned by outdated and inefficient practices that treat patients the same way regardless of the intricacies of their mental health condition.....”

Sexual & Reproductive health rights

Telegraph - Stillbirths linked to rare disease in Brazil raises fear of Zika re-run

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/global-health/science-and-disease/oropouche-virus-brazil-stillbirths-microcephaly-zika-virus/>

“Health ministry sounds alarm over spread of Oropouche after four cases of microcephaly are found in newborns of mothers infected with virus.”

Global Health: Science & Practice - Interventions to Address the Health and Well-Being of Married Adolescents: A Systematic Review

Manahil Siddiqi; <https://www.ghspjournal.org/content/early/2024/07/25/GHSP-D-23-00425.1>

“This **review** concludes that little research and programmatic attention is paid to the needs and vulnerabilities of married girls as if it were too late to reach them, and limited effort is made to address relationship dynamics and other conditions within marriage other than sexual and reproductive health.”

Global Public Health - Men’s perspectives on public-space sexual harassment of women in South Asia

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/17441692.2024.2380845#abstract>

by G Berik et al.

Plos GPH - Evaluating theory of change to improve the functioning of the network for improving quality of care for maternal, newborn and child health

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003532>

“In 2017, WHO and global partners launched ‘The Network for Improving Quality of Care for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health’ (QCN) seeking to reduce in-facility maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirth by 50% in health facilities by 2022. We explored how the QCN theory of change guided what actually happened over 2018–2022 in order to understand what worked well, what did not, and to ultimately describe the consequences of QCN activities.....”

Access to medicines & health technology

Lancet Microbe - Bedaquiline: what might the future hold?

E S Shaw et al; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666524724001496>

“Tuberculosis drug development has stagnated for decades, so the recent availability of bedaquiline is welcome. **Bedaquiline-containing regimens, now the first-line therapy recommended by WHO, have transformed the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis**, offering safer and more effective oral treatment options. **However, key obstacles need to be overcome to ensure global access and prevent the rapid development of resistance against this promising class of drugs.** In this **Personal View, building on an international workshop held in 2023**, we evaluate the current evidence and suggest possible ways forward, recognising the tension between increasing use and slowing the rise of resistance. We also discuss problems in accessing bedaquiline-containing regimens, the potential widening of their use beyond drug-resistant tuberculosis, and lessons for utilising new drugs as they are developed.....”

HPW - Hans Kluge: WHO Europe’s Quest for Cheaper Medicine

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/hans-kluge-who-europes-quest-for-cheaper-medicine/>

“The World Health Organization’s (WHO) vast European region – **53 countries**, including the entire European Union, Russia and even Israel – is often excluded from cheaper medicine deals because of member states’ high- and middle-income status. But one of the flagship programmes of WHO regional director Dr Hans Kluge is the **Novel Medicines Platform (NMP)**, aimed at enabling access to **innovative new medicines such as gene therapy for cancer**, that are effective but extremely expensive. **Norway was the inspiration for the NMP**, Kluge told *Health Policy Watch* in a recent wide-ranging interview.....”

PS: “...For the first time countries outside the European Union may have access to joint procurement for novel medicines, particularly the smaller countries in the region with little buying clout with pharmaceutical companies, said Kluge. **Describing the NSP as a “policy lab”, Kluge hopes it will open the door to access to cheaper medicines in the region – not just novel medicines.**”

Plos GPH - Diagnostic testing preferences can help inform future public health response efforts: Global insights from an international survey

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003547>

By L Salzano et al.

Human resources for health

Critical Public Health - Association between menopause and occupational burnout in healthcare workers: a cross-sectional study

Sanja Terzic et al; <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09581596.2024.2382696>

Study re hospitals in Astana, Kazakhstan.

Decolonize Global Health

Speaking of Medicine (blog) - How to organize a global health conference: a satirical guide

Hashim Hounkpatin; <https://speakingofmedicine.plos.org/2024/07/26/how-to-organize-a-global-health-conference-a-satirical-guide/>

Recommended. *“This **satirical post** was written by guest contributor **Hashim Hounkpatin**. Views expressed by contributors are solely those of individual contributors, and not necessarily those of PLOS.”*

Plos GPH - The missing voices in global health storytelling

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003307>

By T Nassiri-Ansari et al. With **three calls to action**.

“In a **recent analysis of global health authorship patterns**, we investigate how colonial notions of who we consider experts continue to permeate knowledge production and, accordingly, who is afforded the opportunity to become a global health storyteller....”

“...the **disparity between marked improvements at the national level and minimal changes at the multi-country and global levels provides insight into the resistance to power redistribution that persists within global health.....”**

Nature Communications - Unequal exchange of labour in the world economy

Jason Hickel et al; <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-024-49687-y>

“...Here we assess this empirically by measuring flows of embodied labour in the world economy from 1995–2021, accounting for skill levels, sectors and wages. We find that, in 2021, the economies of the global North net-appropriated 826 billion hours of embodied labour from the global South, across all skill levels and sectors. The wage value of this net-appropriated labour was equivalent to €16.9 trillion in Northern prices, accounting for skill level. This appropriation roughly doubles the labour that is available for Northern consumption but drains the South of productive capacity that could be used instead for local human needs and development. Unequal exchange is understood to be driven in part by systematic wage inequalities. **We find Southern wages are 87–95% lower than Northern wages for work of equal skill. While Southern workers contribute 90% of the labour that powers the world economy, they receive only 21% of global income....”**

The Conversation - Rich countries are paying poorer ones to manage their refugee crises: 3 reasons this is dangerous

A Bhagat et al ; <https://theconversation.com/rich-countries-are-paying-poorer-ones-to-manage-their-refugee-crises-3-reasons-this-is-dangerous-235029>

“... We are **scholars of refugee rights and public policy, as well as global supply chain governance and human rights**. We have been following how **western governments have created a new form of refugee governance**. Just as they once outsourced production, the dumping of e-waste and plastics recycling, **they have been seeking to hand over to developing countries the problem of refugee processing and governance**. This approach is flawed, too. It opens the door to human rights abuses and the propping up of authoritarian regimes in developing countries, and is expensive for western countries under the guise of humanitarianism and “solving” so-called migration crises.”

Miscellaneous

IDS Opinion - A new era for social protection?

S Devereux & Juan Gonzalo Jaramillo Mejia; <https://www.ids.ac.uk/opinions/a-new-era-for-social-protection/>

“Despite social protection’s significant advances in recent years, its potential to contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has not been fully exploited. This can be seen by considering three empirical facts discussed here first, and followed by analysis of how social protection policies and resources can more effectively reduce poverty and hunger.”

Guardian - World Bank warns 108 countries risk being stuck in ‘middle-income trap’

https://www.theguardian.com/business/article/2024/aug/01/world-bank-warns-108-countries-risk-being-stuck-in-middle-income-trap-china-india-economies?CMP=share_btn_url

“Too many nations, including China and India, are relying on outmoded strategies to become advanced economies, says report.”

“... In its **World Development Report**, the World Bank said the lesson of the past 50 years was that as countries grew wealthier they hit a “trap” where incomes per head averaged at about 10% of US levels – the equivalent of \$8,000 (£6,261). Since 1990, only 34 middle-income economies had managed to shift to high-income status – with more than a third of them either beneficiaries of integration into the European Union, or of previously undiscovered oil.”

“**Indermit Gill, the World Bank’s chief economist**, said on current trends it would take China 10 years and India 75 years to have incomes per head of 25% of US levels. “The battle for global economic prosperity will largely be won or lost in middle-income countries,” Gill said. “But **too many of these countries rely on outmoded strategies to become advanced economies. They depend just on investment for too long – or they switch prematurely to innovation.** “A fresh approach is needed: first focus on investment; then add an emphasis on infusion of new technologies from abroad; and, finally, adopt a three-pronged strategy that balances investment, infusion, and innovation....”

G20 - UN report presents public policy suggestions for the future

<https://www.g20.org/en/news/un-report-presents-public-policy-suggestions-for-the-future>

“**UNDP’s Signals Spotlight 2024** highlights **suggested initiatives to improve living conditions for the next generations.** The document addresses topics that are crucial to sustainable development — such as **racial, gender and social equality.**”

G20 - Economist forecasts the end of money at G20’s “States of the Future” event

<https://www.g20.org/en/news/economist-forecasts-the-end-of-money-at-g20s-states-of-the-future-event>

“**Economists propose creating a virtual currency and a global bank to finance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),** drawing inspiration from the founding principles of the Bretton Woods institutions.”

Bloomberg - Mastercard Foundation to Spend \$4.7 Billion on Africa’s Youth

[Bloomberg](#);

“**Foundation targets 30 million youths for jobs by 2030;** The firm to intervene in education, access to technology.”

Papers & reports

Globalization & Health - Which government policies to create sustainable food systems have the potential to simultaneously address undernutrition, obesity and environmental sustainability?

<https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-024-01060-w>

By Celia Burgaz et al.

SS&M - “Cultural and conceptual knowledge”: Reformulation and conceptual analysis of a key component of the health literacy model

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953624006038>

by L P Buki et al.

Health Research Policy & Systems - “They don't have the luxury of time”: interviews exploring the determinants of public health research activity that contextualise embedded researcher roles in local government

<https://health-policy-systems.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12961-024-01162-2>

by R C Edwards et al.

NEJM (Perspective) - A Legacy of Cruelty to Sexual and Gender Minority Groups

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2407068>

“Given that medicine and the *Journal* have long pathologized homosexuality and gender nonconformity, it should not be surprising the LGBTQ+ communities continue to face large health disparities.”

Globalization & Health - Securing the rights and health of domestic workers: the importance of ratifying the ILO's C189

Andrian Liem et al; <https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-024-01065-5>

“This commentary highlights the critical importance of ratifying the International Labour Organization’s (ILO) Domestic Workers Convention No. 189–2011 (C189) to secure the rights and health of domestic workers (DWs) worldwide, particularly in light of the World Health Organization’s World Health Day 2024 theme ‘My Health, My Right’. The ILO’s C189 represents a significant advancement in labour rights, offering protection to a highly feminised sector where women make up 80% of the estimated 50–100 million DWs worldwide. The ILO’s C189 aims to address the marginalisation and exploitation that DWs have historically faced by ensuring that they receive the same protections as other workers. This encompasses measures against abuse, harassment and violence, and the establishment of a secure and healthy working environment, as outlined in Article 13. The commentary emphasises the urgent need for the enactment of legal frameworks in countries such as Indonesia, where many of the approximately 10 million DWs encounter shocking abuses both within the country and abroad. The ratification of the C189 and the enactment of national laws, such as Indonesia’s Draft Law on the Protection of Domestic Workers (RUU PPRT), are essential for the safeguarding of the rights and health of DWs. **The commentary compares Indonesia with the Philippines, as the latter has been a signatory to the C189 since 2012 and has enacted its National Domestic Workers Act in 2013.** The ratification of the C189, therefore, is imperative for igniting the protection and advancement of labour rights for DWs globally...”

Blogs & op-eds

WB (blog) - Public financial management and budget support are key to achieving better development results

by M Piatti et al. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/governance/public-financial-management-and-budget-support-are-key-to-achiev>

“In our experience, budget support interventions by development partners and PFM reforms mutually reinforce each other and are an effective combination to deliver better services to people It is time to revisit the development compact with greater focus on PFM.”

“Yes! The Paris principles remain as relevant today as they have ever been. We share four reasons below why budget support is an important aid instrument when it has a greater focus on PFM:

Tweets (via X & Bluesky)

Tzeporah Berman

“Eerie to watch Olympic athletes suffer the heat dome in Paris to global audiences. Sailors wearing ice vests. Beach volleyball players sprayed down with hoses. Misting fountains installed for spectators and athletes. Climate change is the silent spectacle in this year's games.”