

# IHP news 794 : The arduous road towards a better Future

( 20 September 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 New York, #UNGA79 's [High-Level week](#) (23-27 Sept) is about to start, so it won't come as a surprise we zoom in on some of the **High-Level events** coming up (*including the **Summit of the Future (22-23 Sept)**, the **AMR HL meeting (26 Sept)**, ...* ), and the usual **flurry of reports** published ahead of the week, in this newsletter issue. One of them, the [Global Solidarity Report 2024](#) caught our attention, certainly the rather worrying finding that Gen Z and boomers seem to have one thing in common after all: **they feel less like "global citizens"** than the generations in between. There's also the ongoing **raging Mpox emergency (and response)**, providing part of the backdrop for **INB(11) negotiations in Geneva**: it seems we're heading now for a ['pandemic lite' agreement](#) (*with key decisions "shifted" to a Post-Negotiation Forum*) – so let's just cross fingers the world will only face 'light pandemics' in the coming decades, then 😊! Meanwhile, the **run-up to COP 29 in Baku** (scheduled for November) also begins to take up more and more space in this newsletter.

But we first come back briefly on **The Gates Foundation's new Goalkeepers (2024) report**. As usual, it triggered a real tsunami of friendly coverage in mainstream media, basically without any hard questions being asked to Bill (*on his paradigm/world vision etc*). While we certainly think the cause of this year's Goalkeepers report (**malnutrition, worsened by climate change**) is a very worthy and much needed one, and we also give Bill the credit of being an Optimist (*a scarce resource in our polycrisis times...*), among others we'd like to question here **Bill's rather particular reading of recent history**: "...*When historians write about the first quarter of the 21st century, I think they may sum it up this way: **Twenty years of unprecedented progress followed by five years of stagnation...***" While we admit this sort of thinking is popular in certain circles (including some Global Health corridors), and only focusing on some global health indicators there's even some truth to it, it's fair to say the writing was already on the wall in **2015, when the SDG agenda was agreed (and probably way before)**: that the global economic capitalist system is unsustainable (and thus no longer "fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century"). As you know, it had always been a brutally unfair system too. In short, it wasn't just in 2020 that things started to "go wrong".

Having said that, I'm well aware **philanthropic foundations are still getting more powerful (they even team up nowadays for some causes)**. Some even see their role [as becoming more important in our times, in order to make up for the fact that "rich countries" increasingly pull back from ODA](#). Yet, that's putting the cart before the horse. As argued here before, **in a fair world, we should be talking of foundations doing 'good stuff' for hundreds of millions at most - not for billions and billions...** The latter, I'm sorry to say, just means that they (and where-ever they get their money from) are not being taxed enough. So let's fix that, also because the implicit, but rather pernicious impact they have on social and political cohesion in many so called 'High-Income countries' requires urgent repair. **In the current political environment, even relatively 'benign' billionaires with their pockets full to spend on good causes of their choice are only further ammunition for the radical right, I'm**

afraid. And together with the far too easy Big Pharma billions earned in the Covid pandemic, they're also a natural target for some of the more wacko conspiracy theories that undermine our democracies. Or to reframe Bill's argument a bit: **if we do want a 'global health boom' again in the coming years, it's vital we start talking about ultra-wealthy people and companies coughing up the money for Global Public Goods, not 'rich countries'**. Without such a reframing, it won't happen.

On a related note, I would encourage you all to read Alex Evans' ['Good Apocalypse Guide'](#). In the **first issue**, he stresses, rightly in my opinion, that **"at the same time, things are getting better and getting worse - faster and faster."** A reliable indicator of system instability, in his words. Evans does convey a message of hope, though.

I still recall the merry days whereby some of us dared to dream of **'cosmopolitan moments'** ☺. Turns out we had to interpret that as more and more people on this planet realizing we're in deep shit (*though true, various segments in society interpret this global crisis in different ways*). A sort of 'global awareness of major Trouble'.

The daily tv-bulletin I'm watching (*still relatively ok compared to the Fox News' es of this world*) can perhaps serve as an example of how the current polycrisis gets "dealt with" by our professional media. Not unlike the Chinese (on CCTV 1) tend to do ( i.e. *reserve 3 minutes at the very end for "foreign news"*), Belgian tv anchors nowadays make a good effort not to chase people away from the start by overwhelming them with depressing news from around the globe. No, that's kept for the end, with first a section on wars (Ukraine, Gaza, ...), then one on other planetary crises (*hunger, droughts, fires, floods, other humanitarian disasters..*). By the way, they usually treat climate change as if it were some sort of 'natural law', or also as 'the new climate normal'. Even if it hits right next door (*like this week in Central Europe*) – although arguably, then they tend to open the news with it.

Against that dire backdrop, I don't blame (part of) Gen Z for being more anxious about the future than some of their predecessors. After all, if you hear **UN SG Guterres** himself [arguing](#), **"...As global shocks become more complex and disruptive, we need "Emergency Platforms" that swing into action automatically..."** that sounds hardly comforting in the ears of young people (*even if these platforms seem to have disappeared from the latest Pact draft*). So yes, the Summit of the Future has its work cut out.

But let's tackle the **"free rider problem"** first of all. As nothing is as corrosive for solidarity between human beings as **blatant fiscal and ecological (effort) injustice**. On the latter, last week another US billionaire went on a commercial space walk, making a mockery of many common citizens' ecological efforts in the process - perhaps the ultimate symbol of our crooked times. PHM calls it **"a global economy for billionaires"**, I notice, and that's not very far from the truth. As long as we allow ultra-rich people to get away with that sort of free rider behaviour, there's no way people will feel or behave like "global citizens". (*Idem for first providing thousands of huge bombs to rogue allies and then expect some of us to pay for 'recovery'... but I digress now*) **If you want to boost trust and social cohesion, and turn more young people into 'Global Citizens', well, tackle these two free rider issues first.** I bet we already get quite far then, on the "road towards a better Future". If not, we can probably forget about a **["Multilateral System fit for the challenges of the 21st century"](#)**.

Enjoy your reading.

Kristof Decoster

## Featured Article

### World Alzheimer's Day: On the many challenges ahead in sub-Saharan Africa

[Elizabeth Irungu](#)

On the **21st of September (World Alzheimer's Day)** we acknowledge the patients with Alzheimer's disease as well as the caregivers who assist these patients.

A generative brain disease and [the most common cause of dementia](#), Alzheimer's [affects memory, thinking and behavior](#). Symptoms eventually grow severe enough to interfere with daily tasks. And as you can imagine, Alzheimer's also puts a huge burden on many caregivers and family members.

In sub-Saharan Africa, dementia (including Alzheimer's disease) is slowly rising on the agenda. Just last week for example, a [Nature conference on the future of dementia](#) took place in Nairobi, Kenya (11-12 Sept), in partnership with the Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative, and the local Aga Khan University. Not a moment too soon, as indeed, Africa ["faces an uphill battle to get ahead of the looming dementia crisis"](#).

A few relevant stats perhaps: [an estimated 2.13 million people were already living with dementia in sub-Saharan Africa in 2015](#), with numbers projected to nearly double every 20 years. The total cost of dementia in sub-Saharan Africa was already an estimated US\$6.2 billion in 2015 (with two-thirds to three-quarters of the total costs attributed to informal care). And annually, over 367,000 new cases of dementia arise in sub-Saharan Africa. So as has been pointed out in recent months, ["dementia could become one of Africa's biggest health crises unless urgent interventions are introduced to counter the continent's disproportionate incidence of the 14 changeable risk factors"](#) (as flagged in a recent [Lancet Commission](#)).

At the conference in Nairobi, focus was among others on risk prevention. For example for [hypertension and diabetes](#), far more can and should be done in many African countries in terms of early diagnosis and treatment. Indeed, [with the rise of unhealthy diets, smoking, sedentary lifestyles, and excessive alcohol consumption in Africa](#), there's a steady increase in non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and obesity – all key risk factors for dementia. Others speculate that some risk factors [are perhaps more relevant in Africa](#) (eg climate change related ones).

As [experts](#) have noted, [the high prevalence of modifiable risk factors in African countries certainly provides fertile ground for local scientists](#). But more in general, [research](#) is needed in almost all domains of the dementia field in sub-Saharan Africa.

But not just risk reduction, also early diagnosis, improving dementia awareness and access to services (through Universal Health Coverage) are urgent [challenges that countries in sub-Saharan Africa must tackle](#). And clearly, rights must be recognised, respected and protected to empower people living with dementia and those who support them.

## Lack of awareness & stigma around dementia

Let's focus a bit more on the [lack of awareness](#) and stigma around Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in some African countries, including my own. And what is being done about it.

In Kenya, some grassroots organisations are raising awareness on the condition and providing psychosocial support to affected family members. Such organisations include the

[Alzheimer's and Dementia Organisation of Kenya \(ADOK\)](#), [Sir James Care Homes Kenya](#), and the [Africa Institute of Mental and Brain Health \(AFRIMEB\)](#). Among others, these organisations use social media to raise awareness on dementia; some also offer holistic care.

As noted by [experts](#), *"many people in Africa do not know what dementia is. Often, they believe it is a normal part of aging, and when symptoms become more severe or unusual, some attribute them to witchcraft or evil spirits."* The stigma and supernatural beliefs cause many patients to be isolated, leading to even more distress. In turn, [understanding dementia as a medical condition would lead to people being treated with more compassion and respect](#).

An [ethnographic study](#) conducted by the Aga Khan hospital staff in Nairobi, led by Dr Edna Bosire (from the Brain and Mind Institute) is currently exploring attitudes and perceptions of dementia in Kenya. From gaining an in-depth understanding of patients, caregivers and healthcare providers, it aims to offer better care to patients and boost their support systems.

## Other challenges & way forward

Similar and other challenges have been noticed by health care professionals in Uganda, eg. on [the use of screening tools \(eg cognitive tests\) that may not be adapted to the context](#), the lack of established facilities to engage in specialised imaging to look for changes to the amyloid and tau proteins that accumulate in the brains of people with Alzheimer's, the high cost of potential new treatments, ...

Staff involved in caregiving for dementia patients can also provide invaluable insights and are thus a valuable resource. Lessons can be [learnt from countries that have higher life expectancies and ageing populations](#), to get insights on approaches used such as adult-care clinics and respite time. This is especially important for caregivers who are otherwise likely to get a burnout and require a time out. Strategies that have already been found effective could be tailored to the context to fit various scenarios.

And if we dare to dream a bit, perhaps eventually the global south could offer more comprehensive packages and support to patients and families through social protection initiatives. While clearly resources in many sub-Saharan countries are anything like in the EU, with the current debt crisis adding to this situation, the Strategic plan 2021-2025 for Europe could still offer some inspiration perhaps, outlining a [comprehensive approach](#) that is human rights based and multi-faceted in order to ensure better outcomes.

So let us raise awareness on Alzheimer's disease, improve early diagnosis, tackle risk factors, learn from existing evidence, and offer more comprehensive care to patients, families and health care providers!

## Highlights of the week

### Gearing up for the UN High-Level Week (22-30 September)

UN News - What's going on with the world (and the future) at the UN?

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154351>

Short overview of some of the key events scheduled next week, including **the Summit of the Future (+ Summit Action Days)**; **The high-level meeting on sea-level rise** ; **AMR High-Level meeting**; annual high-level meeting on the **International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons**.... all relevant for **global health in the year 2024** I'm afraid.

And a lot more. Including the [UN General debate](#) of course.

### WHO at UNGA: Call for urgent, high-level action to address global scourge of antimicrobial resistance

<https://www.who.int/news/item/19-09-2024-who-at-unga-call-for-urgent--high-level-action-to-address-global-scourge-of-antimicrobial-resistance>

Re **WHO's agenda at UNGA79**. Besides the **AMR HL meeting** (top priority) also:

**“During the week, WHO officials will participate in official and informal health-focused events ranging from digital health, maternal, child and adolescent health, communicable and non-communicable diseases, and mental health, to action on climate change, advancing progress toward Universal Health Coverage, and pandemic preparedness and response.”**

**“The UN General Assembly takes place during WHO's first Investment Round**, a series of engagements and ongoing efforts to secure sustainable financing for WHO's core work for the period of 2025-2028. Dr Tedros and WHO representatives will be conveying the importance of investing in global health and of a robust and fully funded WHO to work with countries in advancing health for all. ... .... This will be followed later in the day by **the European Investment Bank and WHO co-hosting a high-level roundtable under the new Health Impact Investment Platform**, which will spotlight country level action to boost vaccination and community-based health. ...”

**“On 24 September, WHO will host the Third Annual Gathering of the Heads of State and Government for the prevention and control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs)**, to catalyze commitment at the highest levels of Government, and bolster engagement by partners ahead of the UNGA high-level meeting on NCDs and Mental Health in 2025. ...”

**“From September 22-29, 2024, WHO will participate in key events, panels and initiatives during Climate Week NYC**. Bringing together world leaders, businesses, policymakers and activists, the events will consider solutions to urgent climate challenges ahead of critical international summits. **WHO experts will make it a priority to ensure that the health argument for climate action takes center stage in global discussions....”**

# Summit of the Future (22-23 September, New York)

## IISD - Updated Programme for the Summit of the Future Available

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/updated-programme-for-the-summit-of-the-future-available/>

With the latest update re the documents, Pacts,... and foreseen programme.

## Devex – Can the UN’s Summit of the Future rise to the challenge?

### [Can the UN’s Summit of the Future rise to the challenge?](#)

Devex expresses a bit of **subdued optimism**... (let’s see whether it’s warranted).

**“Ambitious reform proposals are on the agenda.** So while major powers are still locked in disputes over human rights issues, **there’s a sense of subdued optimism.** .... **In all seriousness, there’s a growing sense that this summit could help shape the future of international cooperation, even if it’s not the global peace love-fest we dream of.** What’s at stake? Everything from poverty to nuclear disarmament to [who controls the internet](#). ... .... **And it gives the U.N. membership a shot at realizing some long-elusive goals, such as expanding the Security Council to include emerging powers, particularly from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.** While nobody expects world peace to break out overnight, there’s hope the summit will **at least renew a sense of commitment to multilateralism....”**

## Via LinkedIn- World Leaders Must Re-boot Global Cooperation for Today and Tomorrow

UN SG Guterres; <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/world-leaders-must-re-boot-global-cooperation-today-ant%C3%B3nio-guterres-tugme/?trackingId=MemPXk78SLmYhiAjLmxaCw%3D%3D>

SG Guterres himself discusses **the stakes of this Summit.**

- And via UN - [Secretary-General's remarks to the Global Call on the Summit of the Future \[as delivered\]](#) (12 Sept)

Quote: **“...As global shocks become more complex and disruptive, we need Emergency Platforms that swing into action automatically,** convening major players according to agreed protocols. We cannot walk into the next global pandemic or shock without being better prepared. ....”

But see via [Pandemic Action Network](#), by now **“...However, despite UN Secretary-General António Guterres’ [recognition that improved and automatic Emergency Platforms](#) better respond to global shocks like pandemics, and despite him [leading with this recommendation](#) last year, **the Pact for the Future’s Emergency Platforms are entirely watered down — pandemics are not mentioned once.....”****

- Via UN News - [‘Create a future fit for our grandchildren’, Guterres urges, ahead of gamechanger Summit](#)

## Devex - UN Future Summit seeks to unite a fractured world

C Lynch; <https://www.devex.com/news/un-future-summit-seeks-to-unite-a-fractured-world-108305>

In-depth analysis of the backdrop & stakes. **“Global leaders can’t cope with today’s crises. How can they solve the problems of tomorrow?”** Some excerpts:

**“... The [United Nations](#) Summit of the Future, a high-level effort to reinvigorate global cooperation at a time of unprecedented pessimism about this generation’s ability to tackle a host of existential global threats — global warming, mass displacement, war, extreme poverty, and pandemics while addressing anxieties about the prospect of an AI-driven technological armageddon. .... The summit at U.N. headquarters in New York comes at a time of enormous stress on the global financial and security architecture that staved off world wars since the U.N.’s creation nearly 80 years ago, in the aftermath of World War II. ....”**

**“... With negotiations entering their final lap, Russia is leading a coalition of autocratic governments, including Iran, Nicaragua, Syria, and Venezuela, in a last-ditch effort to scrap a series of contentious provisions from three declarations — the Pact for the Future, a Global Digital Compact, and a Declaration on Future Generations — which are to be endorsed on Sunday by world leaders. They include the standard menu of the autocrats’ targets: Protections for human rights, gender equality, and freedom of expression.”**

**“... For many, the high-level gathering provides another annual opportunity to mark the abject failure of governments to achieve the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals aimed at ending extreme poverty and inequality by the year 2030, undermining the very notion that history is bending on an arc toward progress and justice. Since 2015, when the SDGs were launched, key barometers of human well-being and progress have been sliding backward. Instead of achieving their aim of ending extreme poverty by 2030, governments are observing increasingly high levels of poverty....”**

**“... The draft future pact underscores the need for greater global solidarity. It includes five overarching themes — including sustainable development, peace and security, global governance, future generation, and digital technology — and a 60-point action plan, urging countries to do everything from eradicating poverty and expanding the U.N. Security Council to devising a global governance framework for preventing war in outer space. But nearly a year of hard-fought negotiations has also exposed the cultural, religious, and geopolitical fault lines between the U.N.’s 193 member states who quarreled for months over abortion, nuclear disarmament, sanctions, financial and security council reform, and who controls the Internet.....”**

PS: **““The summit of the future is in some ways a struggle to shape the future of multilateralism in the U.N. system,”** a senior Asian diplomat told Devex in an interview. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity. **“How can we really make the U.N. system better, more effective and adaptive.”** The ultimate **“litmus test,”** for multilateralism, he said, is whether the international community can make progress on meeting the SDGs. **“The SDGs are about global solidarity; they’re about creating a global safety net; they’re about reducing inequality, keeping in mind that inequality**

can generate strife,” he said. “You can’t on the one hand say we want a multilateral rules-based system and then do nothing about it.” ...”

PS: **“On Thursday, the U.S. announced its support for two permanent Security Council seats for African nations, and reiterated its backing for permanent seats for Germany, India, and Japan. It is also in favor of permanent representation for Latin America and the Caribbean, and a nonpermanent seat for small island developing states, reflecting the need to address climate change. But Washington made it clear it does not intend to give up its veto power or extend it to any new countries....”**

## PHM - Who gets to define the future? The UN’s summit as a mechanism for corporate capture

<https://phmovement.org/index.php/who-gets-define-future-uns-summit-mechanism-corporate-capture>

**“The upcoming Summit of the Future (Sept. 22-23) risks becoming yet another exercise in maintaining the status quo.** What the world truly needs is a democratic global government—one that is inclusive, accountable, and capable of addressing the urgent challenges we face,” said Gonzalo Berrón from the Transnational Institute (TNI). .... **...Voices from the Global South continue to be sidelined and marginalized in global decision-making. Frustration is growing in this region over the dominance of developed countries and transnational corporations in shaping international policies.** The failures evident in our global governance have no doubt fueled the rise of far-right and fascist movements worldwide, capitalizing on the disillusionment of populations left behind by the current system of global governance.”

**“In response to these mounting challenges, a coalition of social movements and organizations will gather in New York from September 19-21 to present their perspectives and demands for a new multilateralism that serves both people and the planet.”**

More in particular, **they are calling for:** equity among nations; prioritization of social movements & civil society; abolishing of veto power; Reform of Trade, IP, and Tax Regimes: Equitable and Accountable Data Governance...

## Lancet Letter - Time for a global human rights treaty for health equity

E Friedman et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01714-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01714-8/fulltext)

“The UN Summit of the Future from Sept 22 to Sept 23, 2024, is fast approaching, with a focus on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, but also looking further into the future. The global health community would do well to consider what should follow the SDGs. To build on the Summit's broad remit, with its Pact for the Future covering sustainable development as well as peace, science, youth, and governance, and to move beyond lofty rhetoric, **we call upon Summit participants to lead us towards a rights-based, health equity-focused, accountability-rich set of global commitments.** One foundational piece of the next iteration of global goals should be a **treaty grounded in human rights with the core aim of national and global health equity—now and for future generations.** A rights-based treaty for health equity, known as **the Framework**

[Convention on Global Health](#), would bind together the sustainable development agenda and the other elements of the Summit. “

“**The treaty would also address two major shortcomings** of the SDGs and the Summit's Pact for the Future....” No prizes to be won which ones.

### **Reinvigorating the Sustainable Development Goals: The Utrecht Roadmap - Statement of the International Research Conference “GlobalGoals2024—The Future of the SDGs”**

<https://globalgoalsproject.eu/conferencstatement/>

As a reminder: Global Governance remains a key issue.... “**The Conference Statement “Reinvigorating the Sustainable Development Goals: The Utrecht Roadmap” presents a roadmap for sustainability governance until 2030 and beyond.** It was cocreated by the participants of the International Research Conference “GLOBALGOALS —The Future of the SDGs”. With **4 avenues of reform.**

- Related: [Science \(Policy Forum\) - Four governance reforms to strengthen the SDGs](#) (F Biermann et al; )

From **September 2023**, but **worth re-reading as the UN Summit for the Future comes up.** “A demanding policy vision can accelerate global sustainable development efforts.”

“**As the UN SDG Summit gets underway this month to review the halfway point in SDG implementation, and a further UN “Summit of the Future” is planned for 2024 to debate global governance reforms, we present here a demanding yet realistic policy vision to adjust the course of SDG implementation..... We suggest a set of governance reforms to breathe new life into efforts to achieve the global goals, based on four core elements: differentiation, dynamization, legalization, and stronger institutionalization.....”**

The authors also suggest three complementary reforms.

- And a link: **Brookings - [What to watch for at the 2024 UN General Assembly](#)** Brookings scholars weigh in.

## **Global Health Governance**

### **BMJ - Wellcome’s new head on the future of clinical research funding**

<https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q1257>

“After more than a decade under the stewardship of Jeremy Farrar, **the Wellcome Trust has switched from having a director to a chief executive officer. So, what changes are afoot for the independent funder worth some £38bn?** The BMJ asks the **new man in charge, John-Arne Røttingen.**”

“... With Wellcome having recently embarked on a 10 year strategy, pledging £16bn in funding for discovery research over that period, **Röttingen says that the trust’s work in building research capacity in Africa and Asia remains key to its international focus, but it remains committed to supporting clinical research in the UK.**”

PS: and an **excerpt on how he sees the role of foundations:**

Q: “The demand for funding is more competitive than ever, with governments reducing spending. How do independent foundations such as Wellcome deal with the increased pressure this brings?”

A: *“We’re in a difficult period. We need global collaboration more than ever. We need international collaboration, across north and south, across east and west. And we need global collaboration to get that scale, to find solutions where there are market figures or even government figures [on investing]. At **Wellcome we’ve recently announced a tripartite collaboration with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Novo Nordisk Foundation, supporting science in and in low and middle income countries. .... “Foundations have a role to play when markets aren’t delivering the necessary incentives for private sector investments. One of the key priorities in the infectious disease space is to identify diseases where there are big gaps in solutions and where there’s insufficient purchasing power—because these diseases, first and foremost, are hitting the poorer populations and countries in the world.” “Then there are government failures. Climate and health is an example of that. Politics has become short term in most countries, focused on the here and now. That makes it harder to tackle the long term challenges. I hope that foundations can play a role in society, contributing to solutions but also [emphasising] the importance of long term investments to solve these issues.”***

**Devex - EU gets a private sector-minded development commissioner-designate**

<https://www.devex.com/news/eu-gets-a-private-sector-minded-development-commissioner-designate-108312>

“Tensions continue with NGOs that warn the EU is forgetting its obligation to fight poverty.”

“The [European Commission](#) proposed its new leadership for the next five years Tuesday, with a former Czech banker and Belgian foreign minister tapped to lead the development and humanitarian aid portfolios respectively. .... **“The whole college [of commissioners] is committed to competitiveness!”** Ursula von der Leyen, the commission president, [said](#) in Strasbourg, France, at the start of her second term at the helm of the European Union executive. **And Tuesday’s announcements made clear that development cooperation will continue to be part of the commission’s attempt — flagged in [leaked internal reflections](#) and [political guidelines](#) in recent months — to use its official development assistance budget — [the world’s third largest, worth \\$26.9 billion in 2023](#) — partly for its own economic interests.”**

“...Síkela’s nomination may be a sign that Von der Leyen wants more full-throated backing for European economic interests abroad, particularly in the lead-up to the release of the commission’s draft 2028-2034 budget and subsequent negotiations with the Parliament and EU states....”

**Tim Schwab - Why I refused to participate in the Netflix docu-series on Bill Gates**

<https://timschwab.substack.com/p/why-i-refused-to-participate-in-the>

“Who funded the streamer's newest whitewash of our so-called 'good billionaire?’”

## Global Health Financing (& debt crisis)

**New UNAIDS report shows that the debt crisis is choking sub-Saharan Africa, leaving health and HIV services chronically underfunded**

[https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/september/20240919\\_debt](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/september/20240919_debt)

“**Growing public debt is choking sub-Saharan African countries, leaving them with little fiscal room to finance health and critical HIV services.** A new report by UNAIDS, *Domestic revenues, debt relief and development aid: Transformative pathways for ending AIDS by 2030* Eastern and Southern Africa | Western and Central Africa, shows that the debt crisis is putting in jeopardy progress made towards ending AIDS.....” The report, released ahead of the 79<sup>th</sup> session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, shows that the combination of growing public debt payments and spending cuts set out in International Monetary Fund agreements in the next three to five years will, if unaddressed, leave countries dangerously under resourced to fund their HIV responses....”

PS: “**To enable increased domestic resource mobilization** for countries to respond effectively to their pandemics, sub-Saharan African countries will need to strengthen their tax systems, including closing tax exemptions which currently cost countries an average of 2.6% of GDP in lost revenue across the region. **Donors** need also to scale up financial assistance for health and the HIV response between now and 2030, while **creditors** should offer debt relief to heavily indebted countries to ease the burden.”

## Bloomberg Tax - UN Human Rights Chief Backs Global Tax Avoidance Reform Efforts

<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/daily-tax-report/un-human-rights-chief-backs-global-tax-avoidance-reform-efforts>

(gated) “**A top UN official Wednesday supported developing countries’ efforts to limit profit shifting and reform international taxation.** Countries stand to lose trillions of dollars from tax avoidance schemes, said UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk, citing a report from the **Tax Justice Network** advocacy group. This, in turn, creates an issue for governments to adequately invest in services such as public health, education, and a clean environment, he added. “Strengthening international cooperation to deal with cross-border tax matters is essential to redressing this situation, and to building economies that are fair, sustainable and grounded in human rights. ...”

## Pandemic Action Network - 115+ Organizations Call for New and Robust Pandemic Fund Investments

<https://www.pandemicactionnetwork.org/news/115-organizations-call-for-new-and-robust-pandemic-fund-investments/>

**“Ahead of the 2024 United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York — and as the world races to stop the spread of a dangerous mpox outbreak — PAN, Global Health Council, and 115 partner organizations urge world leaders to prioritize investments in the Pandemic Fund to help ensure that all countries are better prepared to prevent outbreaks from becoming deadly and costly pandemics.....” “The undersigned organizations urge your government to make a new and robust financial pledge to the Pandemic Fund on or before 31 October 2024 to enable the Fund to reach its minimum US \$2 billion target for new investments for 2025-2027.....”**

## **Plos GPH - Reinforcing community health workers program in Africa for universal health coverage and global health security: A call for concerted efforts**

Ngashi Ngongo, J Kaseya et al ;

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003727>

**Re the funding of CHWs, among others.**

Excerpts:

**“... In many African countries, CHWs often lack clear governance and policies—resulting in ambiguities in recruitment, financing, incentivizing, career development, and sustaining of CHWs. Despite various recommendations such as the Monrovia Call to Action, many African countries struggle to institutionalize CHWs as their cadre of health workers. Although the number of CHWs in Africa doubled during the COVID-19 pandemic and reached about 0.6 CHWs per 1000 people (Fig 1), this number is less than half of the required 2 million CHWs in the region....”**

**“... CHW programs are also underfunded with a \$5.4 billion annual funding gap, partly because funding systems are largely disease-focused and characterized by siloed and fragmented donor-driven approaches... ”**

**“... Notably, meeting the financial gap for the scalability and sustainability of the CHW program requires global solidarity and shared responsibility. Funding from various multilateral organizations such as The Global Fund, PEPFAR, UNAIDS, WHO, and other sources can be directed to support CHW programming worldwide. The Pandemic Fund, established to channel critical investments to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response (PPPR) capacities at national, regional, and global levels, is another great opportunity for funding CHWs. As indicated by various agreements such as the Monrovia Call to Action in March 2023, a call for the adoption of a unified One Plan, One Budget, and One M&E framework at the high-level ministerial event on CHW during the World Health Assembly in May 2023, and the Lusaka Agenda in 2024, harmonization of various funding sources and coordination of activities to support and sustain country-led CHW programs has never been more critical than now. For this reason, Africa CDC launched joint initiatives to support community health programs that resulted in securing a \$900 million commitment to community health investments, of which 74% was earmarked for Africa...”**

## **INB 11 re a ‘pandemic agreement’ (9-20 September)**

INB11 went into its second week. Below some key coverage & analysis.

## HPW - New Pandemic 'Lite' Agreement Shifts Key Decisions to Post-Negotiation Forum

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/new-pandemic-lite-agreement-shifts-key-decisions-to-post-negotiation-forum/>

Update from Tuesday. **“The [latest draft](#) of the World Health Organization’s (WHO) pandemic agreement shifts key decisions to the Conference of the Parties (COP) – a body that will be set up after the World Health Assembly (WHA) has adopted the agreement.** The draft, developed by the WHO Bureau overseeing the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) talks, was distributed to delegates late on Monday....”

**“Details about how to implement the contentious Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) system (Article 12) – a mechanism to share information and benefits about pathogens with pandemic potential – is one of those kicked down the road. ... .. “Almost all of the changes are designed to not have to deal with the intricacies of PABS right now. The same goes for Articles 4 and 5 on ‘prevention, surveillance’ and ‘One Health,’ ...” “**

PS: **“The draft introduces new two definitions: “The transfer of technology is understood to mean non-coercive transfer and on mutually agreed terms,”** according to the new text. “This understanding is without prejudice to other measures that parties may take pursuant to their domestic and/or national legislation, provided that such measures are consistent with their relevant international obligations regarding intellectual property,” it adds....”

“Meanwhile, it defines **“know-how”** as the “knowledge and skills required to manufacture products”.”

- Link via KEI to this Monday draft: [September 16, 2024 version of the negotiating text for a WHO pandemic agreement](#)

*“The WHO has shared the end of day September 16, 2024 version of the negotiating text for a WHO pandemic agreement.”*

## GHF - Slow Progress as Schism Continues Between Countries [Update: Pandemic Agreement Talks]

[Geneva Health Files](#);

In-depth analysis of the INB11 negotiations, from Wednesday. Excerpts:

**“Schism continues between countries, as they dig in their heels maintaining their stated positions on the trickiest elements in a new Pandemic Agreement including on surveillance, prevention, technology transfer, research and development, Pathogen Access and Benefits Sharing (PABS) – some of the few provisions in the draft instrument that have been discussed in recent days....”**

Re the process: **“...The proceedings have seen a marked shift with greater interaction with non-state actors and relevant stakeholders who have had the opportunity to brief member states on some of the provisions being discussed.** Sources say that the Bureau has made efforts to regularly

share progress on the negotiations. Proceedings continue behind closed doors. (There are no regular structured or informal briefings for the press yet.)...”

**“In this story we deal with a few key issues in Article 4&5 (surveillance & prevention, One Health), 9 (R&D), 10 (sustainable production), 11 (technology transfer) and 13 (supply chain). (Article 12 on PABS will be dealt in a subsequent story.)....”**

**“... Sources say that many negotiators including in blocs such as the EU, are weighing stronger obligations on prevention and surveillance in lieu of greater flexibility in the PABS mechanism. Although each of these provisions are “deals in themselves” there has been a propensity to weigh “gains” across these two provisions, observers say. But there is a key difference: many more countries are invested in PABS (given material implications), and not as many are interested in stronger prevention and surveillance obligations especially in the absence of financial commitments. ... So in terms of having leverage, PABS may be inherently more attractive to a broader set of countries and stakeholders, as opposed to prevention & surveillance obligations, a tougher sell at this point. While this does not weaken the importance of prevention, current dynamics suggest that there is a false equivalence in treating these as comparable trade-offs.”**

**“... On VMAT: Few acronyms have kept negotiators awake at night as VMAT has - Voluntary or Mutual Agreed Terms. Discussions on conditions under which tech transfer can take place continues to be fraught with disagreement – many countries including developed countries and a few developing countries, favour “Voluntary and Mutually Agreed Terms” [VMAT]. But experts and stakeholders have long argued that countries should not codify VMAT as a standard in the Pandemic Agreement given that flexibilities in the WTO TRIPS agreement, provides for non-voluntary approaches. In addition, both the US and the EU have provisions in their jurisdictions enabling such non-voluntary approaches.....”**

**“... Diplomats told us that the unfolding mpox emergency is giving fresh impetus to alter and improve upon existing response mechanisms. ... As countries discussed this provision, last week WHO’s shared a statement: [WHO and partners establish an access and allocation mechanism for mpox vaccines, treatments, tests.](#)”**

**“... Tailpiece: regime hopping? There is no doubt that countries are making progress on these negotiations, albeit slow. But long-running disagreements continue and run like motifs through the entire instrument, from voluntary approaches to tech transfer, to what constitutes pandemic products, to the implications of the agreement for PHEICs. These are indicators of a deeper distrust on intentions and commitments.....”**

**“Take the case of what we see as “Regime-Hopping”. While some developed countries believe that WHO is the house for an instrument on prevention, or has the ability to declare the PABS mechanism as a Specialised International Instrument, they are too keen on deferring matters on intellectual property to other forums or regimes in this case the WTO or the WIPO. Some developing countries are of the view that the status of PABS as SII can only be determined under the Convention on Biological Diversity. They also believe WHO has the mandate to work on IP matters in public health....”**

## Pandemic Action Playbook - INB11 Week Two — navigating the messy middle.

<https://mailchi.mp/pandemicactionnetwork/generational-opportunity-pandemic-action-playbook-sept-19?e=da8439b1d4>

With the Pandemic Action's network's take. Excerpts:

**“To push or not to push? [INB Co-chairs remain focused](#) on getting a deal by the end of the year, which means meeting a November deadline to decide to convene a one-day special session of the World Health Assembly in December 2024. While a deal by the end of 2024 would be a win, the [push must not come at the expense of watering down the agreement](#), and there are still major hurdles to overcome....”**

**“... Sticking points — PABS and tech transfers. Articles 11 (technology transfer) and 12 (PABS) are among the critical sticking points. One area of tension is [voluntary vs. binding technology tech transfer](#) with some countries and industry players arguing for “voluntary, mutually agreed-upon terms.” Other sticking points include particulars of PABS, including the [total percentage of production of pandemic health products to be allocated for free and/or at a not-for-profit price](#) — currently 20% — the nuance is in the **minimum mandate for free, which the current text sets at 5%**. [Where to include PABS, who administers it](#), and other benefits are also still in question. The current text proposes operationalizing PABS and prevention via One Health through [separate agreements](#)....”**

**“... What about prevention via One Health? Like PABS, [debate on Articles 4 \(prevention and surveillance\) and 5 \(One Health approach\) has centered on whether a separate annex on prevention under a One Health approach is needed and what it should include](#). This would effectively [kick the One Health can down the road and outside the pandemic agreement](#). ...”**

## TWN - INB Bureau further streamlines text on PABS, presenting weak benefit-sharing commitments

<https://www.twn.my/title2/health.info/2024/hi240903.htm>

(14 September) Analysis as the second INB week was kicking off.

**“The Bureau of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) for a WHO Pandemic Agreement (PA) has released a new text aimed at resolving the bracketed text in Article 12, which addresses the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) system. The document released late afternoon of 12th September, [further streamlines text on the PABS system, presenting extremely weak benefit-sharing provisions that are grossly inadequate](#) to address the prevention, preparedness, and response to pandemics....”**

PS: excerpt on **“Fair and equitable benefit sharing”**:

**“The subject of benefit-sharing is a major point of contention between developed and developing countries. The US expressed its preference for benefit-sharing “options” that a manufacturer can choose from. Several developed countries questioned the practicality of specifying specific percentages of **vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics (VTDs)** that a manufacturer would have to set**

aside for WHO to distribute to countries in need. The **UK and Japan** argued for flexibility in manufacturers providing benefits, adding that requiring manufacturers to set aside VTDs for WHO undermines the attractiveness of the system for manufacturers. **In contrast, developing countries have been calling for meaningful benefit-sharing, proportionate to the obligation of sharing biological materials and sequence information, as well as certainty and predictability in the timely availability of VTDs to prevent and respond to public health emergencies of international concern (PHEICs) and pandemics.** Accordingly, the Africa Group and other developing countries have made specific proposals on monetary and non-monetary benefits that should be shared by recipients of PABS materials and sequence information....”

“... **While sub-paragraph (a) of the Bureau’s proposal** gives the impression that during a pandemic emergency, there will be “rapid access to 20% of real-time production” of VTDs”, analysis of its implementation of sub-paragraph (b) suggests otherwise. **The actual effect of both paragraphs read together is that a manufacturer only needs to provide donations of “no less than 5%” of VTDs.** A manufacturer may agree to provide 5% donations and 2% “at not for profit” prices i.e. a total of 7%. ...” **“The suggested benefit is much less than what is provided for in the WHO Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Framework (PIP Framework) which requires a donation of “at least 10% of real-time pandemic vaccine production to WHO”** (with a footnote that states “Recognizing that flexibility is important in negotiating with all manufacturers, in a range of 5-20%”). **Under the PIP Framework** (which only covers the sharing of one pathogen -influenza virus of pandemic potential), through the standard material transfer agreement (SMTAs), **manufacturers have committed to provide 10% to 12.5% of real-time production during an influenza pandemic emergency.** The **Bureau’s proposal also falls short of the Africa Group+Group of Equity’s call for the allocation commitment of “at least 20% of real-time production, no less than 10% of production to be provided free of charge and 10% of production at not-for-profit prices”.** Instead, it seems to be accommodating of the US’s proposal of “up to 20%”. ....”

## Coming up: the AMR High-Level Summit (26 Sept)

With plenty of reads ahead of the HL summit:

Lancet - [Global burden of bacterial antimicrobial resistance 1990–2021: a systematic analysis with forecasts to 2050](#)

Via the **press release:** *“The Lancet: More than 39 million deaths from antibiotic-resistant infections estimated between now and 2050, suggests first global analysis”*

“First in-depth analysis of global health impacts of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) over time reveals trends from 1990 to 2021 and estimates potential impacts to 2050 for 204 countries and territories. **More than one million people died from AMR globally each year between 1990 and 2021.** Over the period, **AMR deaths among children aged under five declined by 50% while those among people aged 70 and older increased by more than 80%.** Future forecasts indicate **AMR deaths will rise steadily in the coming decades, increasing by almost 70% by 2050 compared to 2022, continuing to more greatly impact older people.** Estimates suggest **improved access to health care and antibiotics could save a total of 92 million lives between 2025 and 2050.** The findings highlight the need for decisive actions – including improved healthcare, expanded prevention and control measures, and new antibiotics – to protect people from the threat of AMR. “

- Related [Lancet Comment – Global burden of antimicrobial resistance and forecasts to 2050](#)
- Coverage via [the Guardian – Superbugs ‘could kill 39m people by 2050’ amid rising drug resistance](#)

“Child deaths from infections see ‘remarkable’ decline but AMR fatalities of over-70s likely to rise by 146%, study finds.”

PS: “... The study, [published in the Lancet](#) was conducted by the [Global Research on Antimicrobial Resistance \(Gram\) Project](#) and is the **first global analysis of AMR trends over time....”**

### Devex - The African Union crafts a continental position on AMR ahead of UNGA

<https://www.devex.com/news/the-african-union-crafts-a-continental-position-on-amr-ahead-of-unga-108280>

Coming back on the [Africa CDC report on AMR](#) published a few weeks ago. “A new report aims to create a unified voice for the African continent's priorities around tackling antimicrobial resistance.”

“... The authors have dubbed it a “**landmark**” report, and **published it in the lead-up to the U.N. meeting this month** where experts are urging world leaders to commit to reducing AMR mortality by 10%, inappropriate human antibiotic use by 20%, and inappropriate animal antibiotic use by 30% — by 2030. **The report aims to encapsulate “Africa’s aspirations, achievements, challenges, and solutions in combating antimicrobial resistance.” ...”**

“An estimated \$2 billion to \$6 billion is needed each year to address this issue in Africa, yet the estimated annual budget for AMR national action plans for countries across the continent is around \$100 million. ....But this larger investment will pay off, according to the authors. For example, investing in water, sanitation, hygiene, and infection prevention efforts could avert up to 20% of AMR-linked deaths in Africa each year.”

PS: “**Priorities include strengthening governance, addressing root causes, building an evidence base, improving reporting mechanisms, mobilizing and coordinating resources, strengthening community engagement, and enhancing research and innovation....”**

### The Conversation - At the UN, world leaders are negotiating the biggest health issue you’ve never heard of

M JP Poirier; [https://theconversation.com/at-the-un-world-leaders-are-negotiating-the-biggest-health-issue-youve-never-heard-of-238488?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=bylinetwitterbutton](https://theconversation.com/at-the-un-world-leaders-are-negotiating-the-biggest-health-issue-youve-never-heard-of-238488?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=bylinetwitterbutton)

“... **At the [Global Strategy Lab](#) at York University, we research how global threats that require coordinated global action, like AMR, can be effectively addressed.** We have also identified critical lessons from climate change policy and successful international agreements, like the [Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer](#). **This research points to two big ideas that**

**could help the upcoming high-level meeting successfully galvanize political action to equitably address AMR now and into the future.....”**

1. Unifying goals to rally public and political support ....
2. Provide policymakers with the best evidence available ....”

Also with an **overview of currently floating proposals** on both aims.

## **Nature World View - Stop delaying action on antimicrobial resistance — it is achievable and affordable**

Ramanan Laxminarayan ; <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02993-3>

Good overview of the stakes at the AMR HL meeting. **“Ensuring that clinics in low- and middle-income countries are well-stocked with high-quality antibiotics** could help physicians to treat millions of people each year and slow the spread of drug resistance.” A few excerpts:

**“Bacterial infections have been unfairly neglected — probably because a diverse array of pathogens are responsible for them, so there is no clear group of stakeholders who can advocate for change, as is the case for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.... .. International funders, such as the Global Fund, must step up.** People with HIV have a high risk of developing bacterial, viral, fungal and protozoal infections. **Providing people with access to effective diagnostics and antibiotics targeting bacterial infections more broadly would be a natural extension of the Global Fund’s existing mandate....”**

**“Furthermore, prevention strategies — especially the provision of vaccines, safe water and good sanitation — need to be supported by organizations such as Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, as well as through bilateral donors, including the United States Agency for International Development in Washington DC. They also need to be prioritized in national budgets in low- and middle-income countries.....”**

**“Experience from past UN declarations shows that specific commitments made by countries are more likely to translate into action than is language that is unclear about what is expected of which organizations.** The **Lancet Series on Antimicrobial Resistance**, published in May, calls for a 10% reduction in human mortality from AMR, a 20% reduction in the inappropriate antibiotic use in people and a 30% reduction in the inappropriate antibiotic use in animals by 2030 (see [go.nature.com/4d4xg](https://go.nature.com/4d4xg)) — all relative to levels in 2019. **And support is growing for an independent panel set up by four intergovernmental organizations — the World Health Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Organisation for Animal Health — to appraise the evidence around tackling AMR.”**

In conclusion, **“With investment from global funders, specific targets and accountability through an independent panel, there is a much higher chance of this year’s discussions at the General Assembly translating into global action to tackle AMR.”**

- Related (also from Ramanan Laxminarayan) - [TGH - The United Nations Must Ensure Sustainable Access to Effective Antibiotics](#)

**“A collapse in the effectiveness of antibiotics could come without warning and imperil entire health systems.”**

“PS: “... Efforts have been made to generate global attention to the issue of antibiotic resistance. **In addition to the high-level meeting on AMR, discussions have been held to address the link between antimicrobial resistance and the UN sustainable development goals (SDGs).** Increasing evidence shows that achieving **SDG 3**, which calls for ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages, **hinges on access to effective antibiotics.** Focusing on **immunization, water and sanitation, and prevention of infection** could further those SDGs while reducing the burden of resistance. **Global goals on improving access to primary health and universal health coverage** depend on the availability of effective antibiotics. Finally, the **global health security threat** from AMR is substantial....”

### **Cidrap News - WHO calls on countries to address gender inequalities in antimicrobial resistance**

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/antimicrobial-stewardship/who-calls-countries-address-gender-inequalities-antimicrobial-resistance>

**“The World Health Organization (WHO) yesterday released new guidance to help countries address key gender disparities in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of drug-resistant infections.** The document provides a summary of the evidence on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and gender and proposes recommendations for policymakers to consider when they develop, revise, implement, and monitor their national AMR action plans. ....”

### **Politico – Wars are breeding superbugs that will spread 'everywhere'**

<https://www.politico.eu/article/war-ukraine-gaza-superbugs-spread-who-amr-global-emergency/>

**“Drug-resistant infections thrive in the chaos of war, spilling over to neighboring regions.” Scientists are particularly worried about the conflict in Gaza.** Read why.

Among others with quotes from Dr. Hanan Balkhy (WHO Emro) and Antoine Abou Fayed, a microbiologist at the American University of Beirut.

### **Guardian (Analysis) - Drug-resistant infections are on the rise – so why aren't we getting any new antibiotics?**

K Lay; <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/sep/16/why-arent-we-getting-any-new-antibiotics-antimicrobial-resistance>

**“World leaders will meet in New York this month to discuss growing antimicrobial resistance as researchers warn the development of replacement drugs is stalling.”** Good overview of the current status on the latter.

And a few links & snippets:

- [Nature \(Comment\) - Tackling antimicrobial resistance needs a tailored approach — four specialists weigh in](#)

“Ahead of a United Nations meeting on the global challenge of drug-resistant infections, **Nature asked health-care experts in emerging economies to describe what would address the issue in their country or region most effectively.** .... **four specialists — from Bangladesh, Brazil, Nigeria and the Middle East —** told *Nature* which changes will be most crucial where they live.....”

- Via Cidrap News - [GARDP gets funding boost](#)

“In other news announced ahead of the UN High-Level Meeting on AMR, **the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership (GARDP) said today that 10 public and private funders have pledged \$66 million to support its efforts to develop new treatments for drug-resistant infections.** The funding will help GARDP pursue its strategy of partnering with drugmakers to accelerate the development of antibiotics targeting WHO priority pathogens and ensure that those antibiotics are accessible in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). ...”

“... **The funders include six governments** (Germany, Japan, Monaco, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom), **the European Union Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Agency, the South African Medical Research Council, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and British pharmaceutical company GSK.**”

- Via a [Science expert opinion](#): “.... **International efforts**, such as the [Transatlantic Taskforce on Antimicrobial Resistance \(TATFAR\)](#) or the [Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria Biopharmaceutical Accelerator \(CARB-X\)](#), **are steps in the right direction but are nowhere near the \$46 billion USD per year investment called for** by the [UN General Assembly High-Level Meeting on antimicrobial resistance....”](#)

## Mpox emergency (response)– Updates from this week

More or less chronologically starting from end of last week.

**HPW - DR Congo to Launch Mpox Vaccine Drive in Early October; UNHCR seeks over \$21 Million to Support Refugees in Outbreak Hotspots**

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/dr-congo-to-launch-mpox-vaccine-drive-in-early-october-unhcr-seeks-over-21-million-to-support-refugees-in-outbreak-hotspots/>

With the **key messages from the Africa CDC media briefing from last week on Thursday.**

**WHO prequalifies the first vaccine against mpox**

<https://www.who.int/news/item/13-09-2024-who-prequalifies-the-first-vaccine-against-mpox>

From late last week. **“The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced the MVA-BN vaccine as the first vaccine against mpox to be added to its prequalification list. ... WHO’s assessment for prequalification is based on information submitted by the manufacturer, Bavarian Nordic A/S, and review by the European Medicines Agency, the regulatory agency of record for this vaccine....”**

PS: “... The MVA-BN vaccine can be administered in people over 18-years of age as a 2-dose injection given 4 weeks apart. After prior cold storage, the vaccine can be kept at 2–8°C for up to 8 weeks.....”

- **Coverage via HPW – [WHO Pre-Qualifies First Mpox Vaccine, Recommends Single Dose and ‘Off-Label’ Use for Children](#)**

“Bavarian Nordic’s MVA-BN vaccine, has become the first mpox vaccine to be added to the World Health Organization (WHO) prequalification (PQ) list, enabling its use globally. **The WHO has also recommended that single doses be given in supply-constrained outbreak situations instead of the usual two doses, and “off label” use for children as the vaccine is not yet approved for under-18s.**”

PS: “.... Bavarian Nordic has undertaken to focus its production efforts on MVA-BN, which will enable it to produce two million doses by the end of the year, and potentially 13 million by the end of 2025, the company [reported on Thursday](#).....”

## **WHO and partners establish an access and allocation mechanism for mpox vaccines, treatments, tests**

<https://www.who.int/news/item/13-09-2024-who-and-partners-establish-an-access-and-allocation-mechanism-for-mpox-vaccines--treatments--tests>

“In coordination with Member States, **the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners have established an access and allocation mechanism for mpox medical countermeasures including vaccines, treatments and diagnostic tests.** The **Access and Allocation Mechanism (AAM)** will increase access to these tools for people at highest risk and ensure that the limited supplies are used effectively and equitably. ....”

“... **The AAM was established as a part of the interim Medical Countermeasures Network (i-MCM-Net).** The i-MCM-Net brings together **partners from around the world, including UN and other international agencies, health organizations, civil society organizations, industry and private sector to build an effective ecosystem for the development, manufacturing, allocation and delivery of medical countermeasures.** The network was endorsed by WHO Member States as a **mechanism to operate in the interim, as negotiations continue towards a pandemic agreement. ....”**

“**Along with WHO, the AAM for mpox includes** members of the i-MCM-Net: the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the EU’s Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority, FIND, Gavi, the PAHO Revolving Fund, UNICEF, Unitaid and others. “

“.... **The AAM will operate based on these guiding principles: (1) Preventing illness and death:** Prioritize vaccination and other tools to interrupt transmission for those at greatest risk to prevent illness and death. **(2) Mitigating inequity:** Ensure equitable access to medical countermeasures for all people at risk, irrespective of socio-economic or demographic background. **(3) Ensuring**

**transparency and flexibility:** Establish and maintain clear and open communication about allocation decisions and be ready to adapt strategies as new data emerge or situations change. ....”

## Africa CDC Postpones CPHIA 2024 Conference

<https://africacdc.org/news-item/africa-cdc-postpones-cphia-2024-conference/>

**“The Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) regrets to announce the postponement of the 2024 Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA), which was originally set to take place in Morocco from 26 to 29 November 2024.....** The continent is currently battling a severe Mpox outbreak that has spread across all five regions, .... **Africa CDC is now concentrating all its efforts and resources on combating this devastating Mpox outbreak.** We recognize the CPHIA as an essential platform for dialogue, collaboration, and exchange among public health leaders across Africa. Therefore, **we will reschedule the conference to a later date in 2025, which will be announced in due course.”**

## Reuters - Gavi to buy 500,000 mpox vaccine doses from Bavarian Nordic

[Gavi to buy 500,000 mpox vaccine doses from Bavarian Nordic | Reuters](#)

**“The global vaccine group Gavi will buy 500,000 doses of Bavarian Nordic's mpox vaccine, its first purchase** of the shot to help battle an outbreak in parts of Africa, the group said on Wednesday....”  
**“Gavi, a public-private alliance which co-funds vaccine purchases for low-income countries, said it will spend up to \$50 million on the plan, which includes the transportation, delivery and costs of administering the vaccines. The doses are due to be delivered this year.”**

“Around 3.6 million doses of mpox vaccine have already been [pledged](#) to the DRC by rich nations which have stockpiles, the World Health Organization has said, but only a small portion has arrived so far. The WHO [approved](#) the vaccine for use on Friday last week.”

**... The price of the vaccine was not disclosed. The \$50 million investment would equate to around \$100 per vaccine, lower than previous estimates. But the actual price is likely lower still** because the money includes funding for the storage and roll-out....

- See also [Bavardian Nordic's press statement](#) :

**“The advance purchase agreement (APA) will be funded by Gavi's First Response Fund, a mechanism created after the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure rapid access to scarce vaccine supplies in future health emergencies. Availability of all 500,000 doses has been secured for 2024.”**

## Reuters - UK government buys over 150,000 doses of Bavarian Nordic's mpox vaccine

[Reuters](#);

**“ The UK government has ordered more than 150,000 doses of Bavarian Nordic's (BAVA.CO), opens new tab mpox vaccine to boost its preparedness** against a new form of the virus currently spreading in African countries.... ... “We are preparing for any cases that we might see in the UK and vaccination plays a vital part in our defences,” said Susan Hopkins, chief medical advisor at the UK

Health Security Agency. **The government plans to offer the vaccine to those eligible in stages, and based on clinical needs.** The government has agreed that gay, bisexual, or other men who have sex with men, certain healthcare workers and specialist healthcare and humanitarian workers who go to affected countries and close contacts of a confirmed mpox case should be offered vaccination....”

### Cidrap News - UNICEF appeal targets rising mpox cases in African kids

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/mpox/unicef-appeal-targets-rising-mpox-cases-african-kids>

“UNICEF yesterday **announced** the launch of a \$58.8 million appeal to support the mpox response in six African countries where children are most affected by the disease.”

“....Kids make up more than half of cases in some African nations: The focus of UNICEF’s appeal are children in **Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and the Central African Republic**, all of which are experiencing rising clade 1 mpox activity. **UNICEF said 60% of the nearly 22,000 suspected and confirmed mpox cases in Africa this year are in children younger than 15 years old and that 80% of the more than 700 mpox deaths have involved kids.** So far, the DRC is the only country to report fatal infections in children....”

### Reuters - Bavarian says mpox vaccine approved by EU regulator for adolescents

[Reuters;](#)

“ **Bavarian Nordic (said on Thursday its mpox vaccine was approved by the EU's drug regulator for use in adolescents, bolstering the case for using the shot in the 12 to 17 age group to contain an outbreak in parts of Africa....”**

### HPW - African Leaders Hold Weekend Meeting to Address ‘Worrying’ Increase in Mpox Cases

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/african-leaders-hold-weekend-meeting-to-address-worrying-increase-in-mpox-cases/>

Coverage of an Africa CDC briefing on Thursday.

“**African heads of state from countries affected by mpox will meet virtually on Sunday to address the “worrying” increase of the virus – with 2,912 new cases and 14 deaths recorded in the past week, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention reported at a media briefing on Thursday. “**

“Mpox is not under control in Africa. We still have this increase of cases that is becoming worrying for all of us. In many countries, we have different clades [so] the mpox outbreak is a combination of many outbreaks in one,” Africa CDC Director-General Dr Jean Kaseya told the media briefing.

“.... **On Wednesday, the government of Japan signed an agreement with the DRC to donate three million KM Biologics’ LC16 vaccines which, unlike Bavarian Nordic’s MVA-BN vaccine, are authorised for children.** Around 40% of the continent’s suspected mpox cases are in children. **However, health workers will need special training to vaccinate people with LC16, which requires**

a similar process to that of smallpox, said Dr Mike Ryan, the World Health Organization's (WHO) global head of health emergencies."

"... Rwanda meanwhile started its vaccination campaign earlier in the week, but it has only received 1,000 donated so far vaccines. The DRC will start its vaccination campaign in the first week of October, while the Africa CDC expects to soon dispatch vaccines to South Africa, Uganda, Burundi "and any other country that will be in need". It is also establishing an expert technical review committee to assist countries to develop "strong vaccination campaign plans", said Kaseya...."

## Mpox emergency – Analysis & advocacy

GHF (guest essay) - Mpox - A Critical Reminder For Obligations To Prioritize & Invest in Universal Health Coverage in the Pandemic Agreement [GUEST ESSAY]

M Robalo & P Cipriano (both co-chairs of UHC 2030) [Geneva Health Files](#);

"In our guest essay today, experts Magda Robalo and Pamela Cipriano, co-chairs of UHC2030, argue that the current mpox crisis is a reminder on the need for prioritizing and investing in universal health coverage."

PS: "Do note that Article 6 in the current draft of the Pandemic Agreement that refers to UHC has already been greened, meaning that countries agree to this language already. However in one of the preambular paragraphs referring to UHC and wider health systems, the text on equitable access to health products remains bracketed while the rest of the text is greened..."

PS: "... Also important for the language on UHC is what countries will commit in terms of financing in the Pandemic Agreement. ...."

Stat - WHO pandemic threat director: Here's what needs to happen to combat mpox

Maria Van Kerkhove; [Stat](#);

"Getting vaccines to the centers of the outbreak is only the first step."

Lancet Letter - Mpox and breastmilk: for once, can we act in time?

Prince Imani-Musimwa et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01881-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01881-6/fulltext)

Excerpt: "... there is an urgent need to clarify whether breastmilk can infect an infant with mpox. Breastmilk samples from mothers who are infected with mpox must immediately be tested through PCR to establish whether the mpox virus is present and if so, whether it is replicable through culture. Such testing is simple to do and will provide normative agencies with data to create evidence-based guidance. Even if breastmilk is free of mpox virus, the risk of infecting an infant remains present due to other modes of transmission. However, that risk needs to be weighed

against withholding breastmilk in such precarious settings as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where more children might die by lack of breastmilk than by mpox. ....”

## Plos GPH - Civil society activism for Africa’s vaccine and local manufacturing agenda: Can mpox be the test case?

N Ndembi et al ;

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003738>

They conclude : “ **Looking forward—Strengthening civil society’s capacity to engage:** It is time to recognize the indispensable role of civil society and usher in an era of collaborative and inclusive strategies that will secure a healthier, more resilient future for us all. **To enhance the voices of CSOs, governance platforms should facilitate the building of mutual trust between CSOs and stakeholders, enabling governments to share manufacturing priorities and gather public input; and support local manufacturers in engaging with CSOs to influence policies and regulations that promote local production, such as favorable tax incentives and regulatory reforms. These platforms should also facilitate continuous capacity-building for CSOs to effectively advocate for sustainable local production,** contributing to a more resilient and self-reliant healthcare infrastructure in Africa. »

## Cidrap News - Amid new mpox outbreak, study suggests waning protection of Jynneos vaccine

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/mpox/amid-new-mpox-outbreak-study-suggests-waning-protection-jynneos-vaccine>

“**Jynneos vaccine wane significantly over the course of a year,** raising new questions about just how protected vaccinated people are against reinfection and if booster doses of the vaccine are needed among at-risk populations....”

## More on PPPR

### Cidrap News - Global health experts note improved post-COVID pandemic preparedness, but large gaps remain

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/public-health/global-health-experts-note-improved-post-covid-pandemic-preparedness-large-gaps>

“A **new survey** among leading global infectious disease experts conducted by Abbott shows that most experts agree that pandemic preparedness has improved since the COVID-19 pandemic, but significant gaps remain in building surveillance programs to identify emerging pathogens, public health funding, and adequate testing infrastructure.”

“The **Abbott Pandemic Defense Coalition** asked 103 epidemiologists and virologists if and how much COVID-19 prepared the world to better handle another pandemic....”

PS: **“Most concerning for future pandemics, they say, are mosquito-borne pathogens and viral pathogens that emerge and mutate along the animal-human interface.** More than 60% said mosquito-borne diseases remain the biggest threat to public health as the climate changes and warms, leading to increased transmission of the Zika, dengue, and West Nile viruses. .... **According to the press release** from Abbott, **scientists predict that Zika could affect 1.3 billion people by 2050, and dengue could affect 61% of the world’s population by 2080.....”**

**Stat - Q&A: The U.S. can, and should, do more on H5N1 bird flu, a top WHO official says**

<https://www.statnews.com/2024/09/16/h5n1-spread-cow-herds-us-response-who-pandemic-preparedness/>

**“The world is watching the response to the spread of the virus in dairy cattle, Maria Van Kerkhove said.”**

**“More work needs to be done by the agricultural sector to get to the bottom of — and put a stop to — transmission of H5N1 bird flu in dairy cattle in the United States, a senior World Health Organization official said over the weekend. Maria Van Kerkhove, the WHO’s acting director of epidemic and pandemic preparedness and prevention, said the world is watching how the U.S., with its advanced scientific expertise, is responding to this outbreak. ....”**

**“...Van Kerkhove, who oversees the WHO’s global influenza program, said better cooperation between the animal health and human health sectors is needed to get a better handle on this situation, which has already led to 14 confirmed human cases of H5N1 infection in the U.S. this year. “We need to see much more cross collaboration,” she said. ..”**

**“... what I need to see happening — speaking as the person leading the work at WHO on epidemic and pandemic prevention and preparedness, leading on the global influenza program — is more efforts by the animal sector to really understand what’s happening in animals. I think the cross-sectoral collaboration that’s happening in the U.S. is challenging on many different fronts. But this is the One Health approach right in front of us. And if there are not investigations that take place when you have a detected case in humans — back tracing, forward tracing, looking at animal exposures, going to the ministry of agriculture or the USDA, looking at wildlife, looking at poultry, looking at dairy cattle, looking at swine — then we don’t have a complete picture....”**

PS: **“... I think this is one of the most insidious things H5N1 has done, infecting a mammalian species without causing it severe disease. It removes the incentive to try to contain it. Look at MERS. [It] infects dromedary camels causing no symptoms at all. This has been the whole challenge. Why would you tackle this particular virus in an animal species where there’s absolutely [no risk to the animal]?....”**

**TGH - The United States Isn't Ready for a Bird Flu Epidemic**

R Nuwer; <https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/united-states-isnt-ready-bird-flu-epidemic>

**“Epidemiologist Michael Osterholm discusses what's keeping the United States from closing public health gaps.”**

Quote: “... You recently asserted in a *Foreign Affairs* article that the **world is not ready** for the next pandemic. Can you summarize your argument? Osterholm: The bottom line is that we all focus on how long it takes to develop a vaccine to address a specific emerging pandemic. That’s less of a question for me. Instead, I want to know how long it takes to get the last dose of the vaccine. If we develop a vaccine within six to 10 months but can't get most people vaccinated for several years because we don't have the manufacturing capacity, that paints a very different picture. Right now, we don't have the capacity to manufacture vaccines at the levels we would need to respond to a pandemic. ...”

- And a link: [Nature News - Is bird flu spreading among people? Data gaps leave researchers in the dark](#)

## Polio

**AP - The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the UN says**

<https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-taliban-polio-vaccination-campaign-suspend-9fc299a2e72ddd81f913da9f7f05e81>

“The Taliban have suspended polio vaccination campaigns in Afghanistan, the U.N. said Monday. It’s a **devastating setback for polio eradication**, since the virus is one of the world’s most infectious and any unvaccinated groups of children where the virus is spreading could undo years of progress.”

“Afghanistan is one of two countries in which the spread of the potentially fatal, paralyzing disease has never been stopped. The other is Pakistan. It’s likely that the Taliban’s decision will have major repercussions for other countries in the region and beyond. News of the suspension was relayed to U.N. agencies right before the September immunization campaign was due to start. ... .. **A top official from the World Health Organization said it was aware of discussions to move away from house-to-house vaccinations and instead have immunizations in places like mosques.....**”

**Guardian - Taliban’s curbs on women add to risk of polio outbreak, health officials warn**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/sep/17/taliban-curbs-women-risk-polio-outbreak-vaccination-campaign-health-officials-warn>

With some more detail on the Taliban decision. “Regime suspends polio campaign across Afghanistan **over security concerns and women’s role in vaccination drive.**”

“ ... Afghanistan is at risk of a polio outbreak, health officials have warned, after the Taliban suspended the vaccination campaign over security fears and restrictions on women. **The World Health Organization (WHO) has confirmed 18 new cases of polio infection in the country so far this year, a significant increase from the six cases reported in 2023.** Local healthcare workers say these numbers could be higher as many cases will not yet have been detected....”

“The **Taliban** had “temporarily suspended” polio vaccinations in Afghanistan, a health official involved with the campaign confirmed to the Guardian, **because of security concerns and women’s involvement in administering vaccines.** .... “The reason behind the postponing of the polio campaign is the issues with the modality of implementation,” the health official explained on condition of anonymity. **“The leadership of the current government has ordered us to not conduct door-to door campaigns.”** Instead, the Taliban government wants to shift vaccination efforts to local mosques, with the expectation that families would bring their children to get doses....”

“... **“One of the reasons for banning door-to-door campaigns was security.** The south, especially Kandahar, is where the Taliban leaders live, and they are concerned the campaigns could reveal their locations to foreign threats,” the official said.....”

## WHO Afro - Sahel, Lake Chad Basin countries coordinate joint polio eradication plan

<https://www.afro.who.int/news/sahel-lake-chad-basin-countries-coordinate-joint-polio-eradication-plan>

“In a **significant move to combat the ongoing challenge of variant poliovirus transmission in Central and West Africa, Ministers of Health from the Lake Chad Basin countries and Sahel sub-region have published this week a comprehensive cross-border coordination plan for 2024/2025.** This critical initiative aims to bolster joint efforts to eradicate polio and prevent its spread across national borders, ensuring a safer and healthier future for millions of children.....”

## NCDs

### WB (report) - Investing in Healthy Longevity Could Save 150 Million Lives

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2024/09/12/investing-healthy-longevity-save-150-million-lives?cid=HNP TT health EN EXT>

“**By 2050, one in three people will be over 60 years old. With bold action to promote healthy longevity, developing countries could save 150 million lives and extend millions more, according to a new World Bank report.** Saved health care costs, healthier lifestyles, increased workforce productivity, and lower public expenditure on social services would also generate enormous economic value. **The report, “Unlocking the Power of Healthy Longevity: Demographic Change, Non-communicable Diseases and Human Capital,” lays out strategies for governments** that can improve health, reduce poverty, address gender inequity, and enhance productivity in low- and middle-income countries. **Healthy longevity** means the state of good physical, cognitive, and social functioning throughout a person’s lifespan.....”

- And an uplifting note via Devex - [Living longer and better](#)

“Development stories can be uplifting, but more often than not, they’re depressing. After all, we’re staring down a skyscraper-tall wave of crises, from disease and war to climate change and debt distress. But one undisputedly positive achievement is that **people everywhere are living longer.** In fact, **by 2050, 1 in 3 people will be over 60 years old,** according to the World Bank, calling it “a

triumph of development” and noting that over 60s are the fastest-growing demographic across the planet. **But aging comes with its own set of problems**, and the anti-poverty lender thinks we can **do a better job of keeping more people alive even longer** — and better.....” Enter the new report (see above).

## **The Lancet Neurology: Air pollution, high temperatures, and metabolic risk factors driving global increases in stroke, with latest figures estimating 12 million cases and over 7 million deaths from stroke each year**

[Global, regional, and national burden of stroke and its risk factors, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study 2021](#)

Cfr the **press release**:

- ***“Between 1990 and 2021, the number of people who had a new stroke (up by 70%), died from a stroke (up by 44%), and stroke-related health loss (up by 32%), has risen substantially worldwide.***
- *Stroke is highly preventable, with 84% of the stroke burden in 2021 attributable to 23 modifiable risk factors, including air pollution, excess body weight, high blood pressure, smoking, and physical inactivity—presenting a public health challenge and an opportunity for action.*
- ***Notably, the contribution of high temperatures to poor health and early death due to stroke has risen 72% since 1990, a trend likely to increase in the future—underscoring the impact of environmental factors on the growing stroke burden.***
- ***For the first time, the study reveals the high contribution (on a par with smoking) of particulate matter air pollution to subarachnoid haemorrhage (fatal brain bleed).***
- *Effective, accessible, and affordable measures to improve stroke surveillance, prevention (with the emphasis on managing blood pressure, lifestyle, and environmental factors), acute care, and rehabilitation need to be urgently implemented across all countries to reduce the stroke burden.”*

## **Commercial Determinants of Health**

**FT - UK urged to tax ‘unhealthy’ food companies to boost national health**

<https://www.ft.com/content/812cd51b-6d29-428e-8034-023331374497>

**“Reduced illness could save NHS £18bn per year by mid-2030s, says think-tank.”**

**“The UK should increase tax on tobacco, alcohol and “unhealthy food companies” to raise £10bn a year by the end of the decade to boost the nation’s health, a leading think-tank has said. The centre-left Institute for Public Policy Research’s commission on health and prosperity also recommended tighter regulation in areas such as food packaging and gambling advertising, as it proposed enlisting employers, communities, businesses and investors in the effort to improve wellbeing...”**

## Run-up to COP 29 in Baku (11-22 Nov)

### HPW - Health Set to Get a Bigger Spotlight at Upcoming COP29

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/health-set-to-get-a-bigger-spotlight-at-upcoming-cop29/>

Coverage of a webinar jointly organized last week by the COP29 Presidency and the WHO.

**“Health will be an important focus of the upcoming annual United Nations (UN) climate conference taking place in November in Baku, Azerbaijan, according to the COP29 Presidency and the World Health Organization (WHO).”**

“Like the previous COP, **there will be a health day and there is a slew of health-focused initiatives**, according to Elmar Mammadov, co-lead of the COP29 Global and Regional Initiatives and Action Agenda Team. ... .. The COP29 Presidency and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) have launched the **Harmonia 4 climate resilience** initiative to empower farmers, villages, and rural communities. .... Then there is the **‘Baku Initiative on Human Development for Climate Resilience’**, which is a multi-sectoral initiative on health, education, jobs, green skills, and youth....”

“In addition, **the COP29 Presidency is exploring a coalition along the lines of Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health (ATACH)** that came out of COP26. ATACH is an informal voluntary network to share information-sharing and for cooperation administered by WHO. .... .. **“We would like COP29 Presidency to prioritize health on a permanent basis, to make it a long-term, sustainable topic to all COPs in the future,”** Mammadov said. He added that **the COP29 Presidency would like to bring together all the Presidencies since COP26, along with the WHO, and form a climate and health coalition. ....”**

PS: “It has become increasingly clear that the **national governments have been slow to move on climate policies** despite public rhetoric. And hence the **focus has shifted to local administration as they have shown to be more willing to act.** “One of the key topics is **integration of health into city planning,”** ... .. The Presidency has introduced the **‘Resilient and Healthy Cities’** initiative that will keep a track of the healthiest cities and address urban health issues. ....”

### UAE invited to join group tackling climate effects on health

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/climate/2024/09/12/uae-invited-to-join-group-tackling-climate-effects-on-health/>

“COP29 host Azerbaijan asks UAE, Egypt, Britain and Brazil to help steer discussions at UN summits.”

- See also **Linkedin (Arthur Wyns)**

“COP28 was a diplomatic breakthrough moment for climate and health. **Now, COP29 host Azerbaijan have proposed the creation of a health-focused coalition between previous and future COP Presidencies.** The UK (COP26), Egypt (COP27), the UAE (COP28), Azerbaijan (COP29) and Brazil (COP30) are currently in talks to **explore the creation of a "COP continuity coalition on climate and health".** “

“Similar to the "COP troika" that was set up between UAE, Azerbaijan and Brazil to raise diplomatic pressure and coordination to deliver more ambitious climate plans (NDCs) by COP30, **the proposed COP coalition would ensure that previous commitments on climate and health (such as the commitment by 50+ countries at COP26 to develop low-carbon and climate resilient health system, and the COP28 declaration on climate and health) are followed through, and momentum is sustained year on year.** The exact format and scope of the COP coalition is still to be determined, and will be announced on the "health day" at COP29 in Baku (on 18 November....”

## Devex - Latest global climate finance goal talks ‘still stuck’ on dollar amount

<https://www.devex.com/news/latest-global-climate-finance-goal-talks-still-stuck-on-dollar-amount-108290>

“The last expert meeting ahead of COP 29 on a new climate finance goal has seen no progress on fixing an amount nor consensus on who should put the money forward.”

“A meeting of delegates working to set the outline of a new global climate finance goal ahead of the U.N. climate conference made little progress last week. The amount of money to be mobilized and the groups responsible for doing that remain the main points of contention....”

“Country delegations met from Sept. 9 to 12 in Baku, Azerbaijan, to try to make advance on the technical details that will define the next New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, or NCQG, to achieve the ambitious outcome expected from COP 29. Following a three-year process, this was the last technical expert meeting ahead of the conference.....”

PS: “Another critical topic was the inclusion — or not — of loss and damage finance under NCQG. ....”

PS: “Outside the negotiation process and to promote political momentum, COP 29 will convene an informal high-level ministerial dialogue on Sept. 27 in New York, in the middle of the general debate week of the 79th U.N. General Assembly.....”

- For more on this technical meeting in Baku from last week, see also [Climate Change news – Slow progress in Baku risks derailing talks on new climate finance goal at COP29](#)

At the latest climate talks in Baku, which ended on Thursday, countries made little progress towards agreeing a new climate finance goal to replace the current \$100-billion-a-year target, dimming prospects for the main expected outcome from November’s COP29 summit. Negotiators gathered in Azerbaijan this week for the last round of technical talks before COP29, after mid-year discussions in Bonn ended in stalemate on several crunch issues. **Countries have yet to define critical aspects of the new collective quantified goal (NCQG) for climate finance, including who should pay – the so-called “contributor base” – and how much money they will mobilise – known as the “quantum”.....”**

## FT - Oil-rich nations launch ‘pushback’ against fossil fuel phaseout

[FT:](#)

**“EU bloc among countries putting pressure on COP29 hosts Azerbaijan to prioritise end to use of polluting fuels.”**

“ .... **Oil-rich nations are making a concerted effort to slow progress on a landmark UN climate agreement to end the use of fossil fuels**, according to western nations taking part in global climate change talks. ... .. the negotiators said that a **group of countries including Saudi Arabia, Russia and Bolivia** — which have historically proved a block to any global agreement to phase out the use of fossil fuels — **were yet again frustrating progress.....”**

**Devex - COP 29 presidency ‘committed’ to agree on climate finance goal, CEO says**

<https://www.devex.com/news/cop-29-presidency-committed-to-agree-on-climate-finance-goal-ceo-says-108296>

**“Azerbaijan’s COP presidency outlines its commitment to clinching a new climate finance goal and prioritizing developing countries and island states during the upcoming U.N. climate conference.”**

“The COP 29 Azerbaijani presidency is **“committed to agreeing” on the New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance, or NCQG**, its CEO Elnur Soltanov has said ahead of the upcoming U.N. climate conference.....”

PS re the **climate finance-debt relief nexus**: “ .... At the event, Riad Meddeb, director of the Sustainable Energy Hub at UNDP, **highlighted the challenge SIDS face when addressing climate change, and especially climate finance**. “With over 40% of SIDS facing or nearing unsustainable debt level, their capacity to invest in resilience, climate action, and renewable energy is severely limited,” he said. ... To address this, Meddeb said COP 29 must urgently “develop robust energy finance architecture that offers debt relief while removing financial constraints and limiting access to capital.” ... **One way of doing so, he suggested, would be to embrace debt for energy swaps**. This “could be most effective within a sovereign framework where bilateral partners agree on debt reduction in exchange for government investment in renewable energy.” ....”

## **More on Planetary Health**

**Devex - Climate finance for health: 'Woefully short, woefully slow'**

<https://www.devex.com/news/climate-finance-for-health-woefully-short-woefully-slow-108302>

(gated) “In an interview with Devex, **The Rockefeller Foundation's Naveen Rao said the money needed is \$11 billion a year, but the available amount is nowhere close to that.**”

PS: “ ....Donors committed about [\\$1 billion for climate and health](#) at the 28th U.N. Climate Change Conference in Dubai last December.....”

## WMO - Climate and health data must be integrated

<https://wmo.int/media/news/climate-and-health-data-must-be-integrated>

**“Climate change is the most significant challenge to global health, and the integration of climate information into routine decision-making in the health sector is critical. “**

**“The World Health Organization (WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Wellcome and the Rockefeller Foundation therefore brought together over 75 technical partners to advance action towards the development of scalable, reliable, interoperable systems for integrated climate-informed health monitoring and support. Held at the WMO headquarters in Geneva Switzerland from 10-11 September 2024, the meeting convened funders and leading experts in health information systems, digital health, climate data, and climate-health research and policy, as well as representatives from health ministries. ....”**

**“...This meeting advanced the technical and policy agenda for the use of weather and climate information for health decision making, as outlined in the [WHO-WMO Implementation Plan for Climate, Environment, and Health](#), the [WHO resolution on Climate Change and Health](#), and the [COP28 Health Declaration](#). ... It agreed a draft three-year action agenda for integrated climate and health data and surveillance systems, identification of prioritized gaps, and draft initial requirements for the integration of climate/weather information into health information systems....”**

## FT - Global carbon pricing needed to avert trade friction, says WTO chief

<https://www.ft.com/content/b2de8c00-a46b-41e3-ba8b-a1e9e0c8b975>

**“Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala warns of disruption to commerce from EU and other unilateral green taxes.”**

**“Global carbon pricing is needed to prevent “difficult and problematic” disputes over environmental measures from disrupting trade, the head of the World Trade Organization has said. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala told the Financial Times in an interview that the WTO was taking the lead in working for an international carbon pricing system with the IMF, OECD and UN. That effort comes in response to the EU’s carbon border adjustment mechanism, which came into force this year and requires exporters to the trade bloc to pay a levy linked to the EU carbon price for the emissions of certain carbon-intensive products including steel, cement and fertiliser....”**

**“... The Nigerian said there were 78 different carbon pricing and taxation mechanisms in the world. The intention of the working group was to find a way to set different carbon prices in different regions. The EU might pay \$80 a tonne, and Africa \$20. This would require a change to CBAM, which levies the difference between the EU carbon price and that paid by the source of the imports to the bloc. The proposed global system would also need safeguards against carbon arbitrage, where heavy emitters simply move to areas with lower prices, Okonjo-Iweala said.”**

**PS: “Okonjo-Iweala on Monday officially announced her intention to seek a second term as director-general of the WTO. The Nigerian’s first four year mandate ends next year but African countries had asked her to continue. There is “broad-based support” from members, a WTO spokesperson said. She needs the approval of all to be confirmed. If there are no other candidates she would be back in office before the US election.”**

## Guardian - Global spending on subsidies that harm environment rises to \$2.6tn, report says

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/sep/18/spending-subsidies-environment-deforestation-pollution-fossil-fuels-aoe>

**“... The world is spending at least \$2.6tn (£2tn) a year on subsidies that drive global heating and destroy nature, according to new analysis.”**

“Governments continue to provide billions of dollars in tax breaks, subsidies and other spending that **directly work against the goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement and the 2022 [Kunming-Montreal agreement to halt biodiversity loss](#)**, the research from the organisation [Earth Track](#) found, with countries providing direct support for deforestation, water pollution and fossil fuel consumption.....”

**“... The [report](#) found that the annual total of environmentally harmful subsidies has increased by more than \$800bn – or \$500bn when adjusted for inflation – since the authors last published [an analysis in 2022](#). The increase was driven by the consequences of the war in Ukraine, which caused fossil fuel subsidies to increase sharply....”**

- Related: [Guardian – \*\*More than £494bn subsidies a year are harmful to the climate, says report\*\*](#)

**“ActionAid says ‘parasitic behaviour’ is fuelling the climate crisis and represents ‘corporate capture’ of public finance.”**

**“More than \$650bn (£494bn) a year in public subsidies goes to fossil fuel companies, intensive agriculture and other harmful industries in the developing world, [new data has](#) shown. The subsidies entrench high greenhouse gas emissions and are fuelling the destruction of the natural world, according to a [report from the charity ActionAid](#).”**

“Developed countries are also actively [subsidising such harmful activities](#). ... ActionAid analysts, describing their findings in a [report](#) entitled **How the Finance Flows: Corporate capture of public finance fuelling the climate crisis in the global south**, published on Wednesday, said **many of the subsidies were owing to “corporate capture” of the government and public institutions.....”**

## Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research - Global Warming's Economic Blow: Risks rise more rapidly for the rich

<https://www.pik-potsdam.de/en/news/latest-news/global-warmings-economic-blow-risks-rise-more-rapidly-for-the-rich>

**“In a [new study by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research \(PIK\)](#), researchers analysed how erratic weather events, increasingly intensified by global warming, affect global production and consumption across different income groups. **The results confirm previous studies that the poorest people worldwide bear the greatest economic risks from climate change. Surprisingly, the risk for the wealthy is growing the fastest. Economies in transition like Brazil or China are also highly vulnerable** to severe impacts and negative trade effects. Across countries, these economies face the**

highest risks due to severe impacts of volatile weather and adverse trade effects. **As the planet continues to warm, these risks are expected to worsen across most countries, with ripple effects along global supply chains, impacting goods and services worldwide....”**

“**In the next 20 years, climate change will increase economic risks from erratic weather,**” states PIK scientist Anders Levermann. **“The highest risks remain with the poorest around the world. But the increase of economic risk is strongest for the wealthy, in countries like the US and the EU.** Consumers all around the world, regardless of their income, will thus face increasing challenges due to global warming – without a transition towards carbon neutrality we will eventually not be able to meet these challenges.”

## **Guardian - Data center emissions probably 662% higher than big tech claims. Can it keep up the ruse?**

[https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/sep/15/data-center-gas-emissions-tech?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2024/sep/15/data-center-gas-emissions-tech?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)

“Emissions from **in-house data centers of Google, Microsoft, Meta and Apple** may be 7.62 times higher than official tally.”

“According to a **Guardian analysis**, from 2020 to 2022 the real emissions from the “in-house” or company-owned data centers of [Google](#), [Microsoft](#), [Meta](#) and [Apple](#) are likely about 662% – or 7.62 times – higher than officially reported.”

Ps: “[Amazon](#) is the largest emitter of the big five tech companies by a mile – the emissions of the second-largest emitter, Apple, were less than half of Amazon’s in 2022. However, Amazon has been kept out of the calculation above because its differing business model makes it difficult to isolate data center-specific emissions figures for the company....”

“As energy demands for these [data centers grow](#), many are worried that carbon emissions will, too. The International Energy Agency stated that **data centers already accounted for 1% to 1.5% of global electricity consumption in 2022 – and that was before the AI boom began with ChatGPT’s launch at the end of that year.....”**

## **Mental health & wellbeing**

**Nature Mental Health - The Earth, Brain, Health Commission: how to preserve mental health in a changing environment**

G Schumann et al; [Nature Mental Health](#);

“...A new commission will aim to [understand and mitigate the mental-health issues triggered by “global environmental mega-trends”](#) such as extreme weather, city living and ecosystem collapse. “The stress, trauma and displacement caused by such environmental adversities will probably increase the prevalence of mental illnesses, including anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance use, depression and dementia,” write **members of the Earth, Brain and**

**Health Commission** in *Nature Mental Health*. The multidisciplinary group of experts “will provide a roadmap for the next wave of researchers”.”

## Lancet Series: Chagas Disease

<https://www.thelancet.com/series/chagas-disease>

“**Chagas disease is a neglected tropical disease caused by *Trypanosoma cruzi***. Endemic to 21 countries in the Americas, it poses a significant health burden in the region, affecting 6 million people and causing 12 thousand annual deaths. ... Despite some governmental efforts to improve public health response, current treatments are still suboptimal and there are several challenges related to vector control, diagnostics and clinical outcomes. **In this five-paper Series, the authors discuss important issues related to Chagas disease, including epidemiology, diagnostics, climate change, therapies, and clinical aspects of the disease.** Collaboration, research funding, vector surveillance and integral patient care are just some of the important challenges for disease control that authors discuss.”

## Access to medicines, vaccines & other health technologies

**People’s Medicines Alliance - Gilead’s Lenacapavir News “Marred” by “little hope” for developing countries**

<https://peoplesmedicines.org/resources/media-releases/gilead-hiv-medicine-news-marred-by-little-hope-for-developing-countries/>

“Responding to news that Gilead’s PURPOSE 2 trial of twice-yearly injections of Lenacapavir reduced HIV Infections by 96%, Mohga Kamal-Yanni, Policy co-lead for the People’s Medicines Alliance, said: *“This exciting news is marred by Gilead’s refusal to work with the UN-backed Medicines Patent Pool to license a generic version of this medicine for developing countries. Gilead speaks only in general terms about an ‘access strategy’ for ‘high incidence, resource limited’ countries. That offers only vague hope for people in low-income countries – and hardly any hope for people in middle-income countries where new infections are rising....”*

**Devex - Fighting drug-resistant TB was costly. Here's how that's changed**

A Green; <https://www.devex.com/news/fighting-drug-resistant-tb-was-costly-here-s-how-that-s-changed-108180>

“**Nearly universal access to bedaquiline was only secured in 2023** following yearslong effort involving behind-the-scenes negotiations and public challenges by activists and survivors of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.” In-depth analysis (and thus recommended read)

## Investigate Europe - Drug firms finance Europe's patient groups with multi-million donations

<https://www.investigate-europe.eu/posts/deadly-prices-drug-firms-pharmaceuticals-finance-europe-patient-groups-charities-110-million-euros>

**“Pharmaceutical industry pours €110 million into advocacy organisations across the continent, Investigate Europe research reveals.** Critics argue that funding threatens “independence” of the sector, claims that are rejected by groups.”

**“Patient organisations are important advocates for unwell people.** Their support networks are essential. Their campaigns for better access or new medicines carry weight. Yet these activities can often depend on the industry’s most powerful actors: big pharma. ... ..

**Drug companies poured €110 million into groups in the EU, Norway, Switzerland and the UK in 2022, Investigate Europe can reveal. The likes of Pfizer, Novo Nordisk and AstraZeneca are funding everything from advocacy and campaigning to media projects and podcasts, reigniting concerns about industry influence over the sector....”**

**“US multinational Gilead was the biggest donor, giving €12.8 million, followed by Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Sanofi and Johnson & Johnson.** Together, these firms handed out more than half of the total funding. .... .. **Countries with notable public and political influence, and the biggest markets, received almost all the funds. Groups in the UK accepted €20.7 million, followed by those in Belgium – home to many EU groups in Brussels – France, Italy, Spain and Germany.** In contrast, organisations in Malta received less than €10,000. ...”

## Reuters - US Senator Sanders says generic drugmakers could sell Ozempic for less than \$100/month

[Reuters;](#)

**“US. Senator Bernie Sanders said on Tuesday he received confirmation from major generic pharmaceutical companies that they could sell copycat versions of Novo Nordisk's diabetes drug Ozempic for less than \$100 a month....”**

## Stat Opinion - Tested in Africa, used in America

M Siedner et al; <https://www.statnews.com/2024/09/18/lenacapavir-cabotegravir-hiv-aids-clinical-trials-africa/>

**“How can we end the practice of HIV wonder drug experimentation in Africa?”**

**With a concrete proposal.** « .... ..we need a new mandate for global drug and vaccine development research in low- and middle-income settings that requires a licensing, manufacture, pricing, and distribution plan *prior* to the conduct of trials. Should a trial show benefit, the local population would be ensured access on a pre-specified timeline. The policy could be immediately added as a review criterion by the South Africa Health Products Regulatory Authority (South Africa's equivalent to the Food and Drug Administration in the U.S.), and other similar regional regulatory bodies. These timelines and assurances could also be added to [clinicaltrials.gov](https://www.clinicaltrials.gov) reporting requirements for all Phase 3 trials of unlicensed drugs in such regions. **This change could durably**

sustain the balance of power between, for example, young women in Africa and drug manufacturers....”

### Devex - The plan to give WHO’s snake venom strategy more bite

<https://www.devex.com/news/the-plan-to-give-who-s-snake-venom-strategy-more-bite-108114>

“A new pooled procurement scheme could have products on the ground next year.”

“... WHO is now working on a pooled procurement approach in eight West African countries, using products which have been assessed and recommended by WHO. The first products under the scheme could be on the ground by roughly August 2025, Williams said...”

PS: via [GHN](#): “... The [WHO Global Strategy against snakebite envenoming](#) details an ambitious plan to tackle the problem—but it is still grossly underfunded. Support from the [Wellcome Trust](#), one of the few funding sources, is set to end soon and no new donors have stepped up.”

### The Examination/Washington Post - In the US, opioid-maker Purdue is bankrupt. Its global counterparts make millions.

<https://www.theexamination.org/articles/in-the-us-opioid-maker-purdue-is-bankrupt-its-global-counterparts-make-millions>

“Tactics used to persuade U.S. doctors that potent painkillers could be safely prescribed have been used abroad, an investigation shows.”

“...In the United States, Purdue Pharma, the drugmaker accused of fueling the opioid crisis through its aggressive marketing of highly addictive pain pills, is bankrupt and facing thousands of lawsuits. Globally, its counterparts are selling opioids — and still profiting. Among the beneficiaries: some members of the Sackler family, who own Purdue and also sit atop a group of international companies known as Mundipharma, records show. .... From 2020 to 2022, nine Mundipharma companies in Europe and Australia made profits of \$531 million on sales and distribution of pharmaceutical and other products, according to a first-of-its-kind analysis conducted as part of an investigation by journalists in eight countries....”

## War/Conflict & Health

### WHO - Around 560 000 children vaccinated in first round of polio campaign in Gaza

<https://www.who.int/news/item/13-09-2024-around-560-000-children-vaccinated-in-first-round-of-polio-campaign-in-gaza>

“Around 560 000 children under ten years old were vaccinated against polio during the first round of an emergency vaccination campaign conducted in three phases from 1-12 September 2024 in the Gaza Strip.....”

- See also [UN News – Gaza: WHO chief hails ‘massive success’ of polio campaign amid tragic reality](#)

“[WHO](#) chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [tweeted](#) that it had been “**a massive success amidst a tragic daily reality of life**” for more than two million Gazans who have been caught up in the intense fighting since last October’s terror attacks by Hamas unleashed the war in Gaza.....”

- And Devex - [A race against time: Inside Gaza’s polio campaign](#)

“**A look inside the complicated efforts to vaccinate Gaza’s children in a war zone.**”

### UN News - Health teams brave war conditions in Sudan to save newborn babies

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/09/1154181>

“The civil war in Sudan has brought to country’s health system to its knees. **UN mobile health teams are attempting to plug the gaps**, crossing conflict zones to help pregnant women to give birth in safety.....”

- And via BBC, [a poignant quote from Tedros](#): “**Sudan "is not getting the attention it deserves", and that was the case with other recent conflicts in Africa. "I think race is in the play here. That's what I feel now. We see the pattern now."**....”

### Lancet World Report - 10 years of civil war in Yemen

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)02073-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)02073-7/fulltext)

“**The health system has been decimated.** Although violence has fallen, emergency funding is still well short of needs. Sharmila Devi reports.”

### Lancet Letter – Considerations for the CHH–Lancet Commission on Health, Conflict, and Forced Displacement

K El Bairi et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01646-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01646-5/fulltext)

On a few omissions from the Commission: community engagement & workforce planning.

### Lancet Letter – Health-care workers in fragile and conflict-ridden contexts

P St Louis, E Paul et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01647-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01647-7/fulltext)

“On March 14, 2024, the CHH–*Lancet* Commission on Health, Conflict, and Forced Displacement pledged for the establishment of sustained and resilient health services alongside health-care workers’ protection. We call on the Commission to reflect particularly on the **threats and stresses**

faced by health-care workers and humanitarian personnel in conflict-ridden fragile contexts, such as Haiti and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.....”

### Lancet Letter - The humanitarian system: politics can not be avoided

S Elnakib et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01648-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01648-9/fulltext)

“In introducing the new CHH–*Lancet* Commission on Health, Conflict, and Forced Displacement, Paul B Spiegel and colleagues argue that the humanitarian system to date requires systemic change. We agree, but **believe that the Commission's efforts will fall short without a fundamental rejection of apolitical humanitarianism**. Historical and contemporary crises, such as the ongoing genocide in Gaza, illustrate that **apolitical humanitarianism undermines the field's effectiveness and its ability to respond to those most affected**. Avoiding engagement with politics in humanitarian action maintains a broken system that prioritises powerful interests over the needs of individuals in humanitarian crises.....”

### Gates Foundation - Goalkeepers 2024 report

<https://www.gatesfoundation.org/goalkeepers/report/2024-report>

Coverage & key messages via:

### Devex - Gates Foundation sounds the alarm on the crisis of child malnutrition

<https://www.devex.com/news/gates-foundation-sounds-the-alarm-on-the-crisis-of-child-malnutrition-108295>

“In its annual Goalkeepers report, **the Gates Foundation urges governments to invest in their youngest and most vulnerable, saying “nations can’t grow if their people can’t.”**”

“In its [eighth annual Goalkeepers report](#), published Tuesday, **the foundation urges countries to shore up global health funding, which has stagnated in recent years**. The report, titled “**The Race to Nourish a Warming World**,” also shows how climate change is exacerbating the problem of malnutrition and making it harder to solve....”

“... The report said that **economists should start thinking of malnutrition as an economic data point, as “nutritional deficits quickly translate into financial deficits.”** And those financial deficits are staggering: **Each year the cost of undernutrition is \$3 trillion in productivity lost** because people’s physical and cognitive abilities are stunted.....”

“**The report listed four solutions** that the world should invest in for healthier people and a more climate-resilient planet: **more productive cows and safer milk, large-scale food fortification against micronutrient deficiencies, expanding access to better prenatal vitamins, and contributing to the newly launched Child Nutrition Fund.**”

On the latter: “... **The Child Nutrition Fund is a new, UNICEF-led financing mechanism that aims to scale up ways to address malnutrition in women and children. It is also meant to help improve coordination across various nutrition interventions. The fund’s inspiration is the [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria](#) — one of the world’s fastest-scaling and most effective institutions. The Child Nutrition Fund has a goal to raise \$2 billion by 2030 to support 350 million children — and has raised nearly \$270 million so far. Other founding partners are the [Children’s Investment Fund Foundation](#) and the United Kingdom’s [Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office](#). The fund is now working in 23 countries and backs government-led initiatives aligned with the U.N. secretary-general’s Global Action Plan on Child Wasting...**”

## Reuters - Climate change will escalate child health crisis due to malnutrition, says Gates

[Reuters:](#)

**“Malnutrition is the world's worst child health crisis and climate change will only make things more severe, according to Microsoft-co-founder turned philanthropist Bill Gates. Between now and 2050, 40 million more children will have stunted growth and 28 million more will suffer from wasting, the most extreme and irreversible forms of malnutrition, as a result of climate change, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation said in a report on Tuesday....”**

“...Gates was speaking ahead of the publication of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's annual **Goalkeepers report, which tracks progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), around reducing poverty and improving health.** The report includes the projections above.”

PS: “...The Gates Foundation said in January it [plans](#) to spend more on global health this year than ever before - \$6.8 billion – as wider funding efforts stall.”

- FT - [Malnutrition crisis threatens child health gains, warns Bill Gates \(ft.com\)](#)

“ ... The foundation’s annual Goalkeepers report, published on Tuesday, said that **between 2000 and 2020, a “global health boom” had driven child mortality rates down by 50 per cent. But progress had come to “a screeching halt” since the coronavirus pandemic.** Increased defence spending on Ukraine as well as in the Middle East were among the factors that had made western countries more reluctant to donate....”

**“.... The loss of funding was particularly stark in Africa, whose share of total foreign aid had dropped from nearly 40 per cent in 2010 to just 25 per cent — the lowest percentage in 20 years, putting millions of children at risk. Rising debt levels meant some African nations were “spending more on interest payments than health and education combined”, Gates said, adding: “The reduction in the aid budgets is hurting.” According to the World Bank, undernutrition in the form of stunted physical and cognitive abilities results in productivity losses worth about \$3tn every year. In low-income countries, that loss can be equivalent to about 16 per cent of GDP, the Goalkeepers report said. ....”**

“ Gates said aid should be directed to where it could have the biggest impact, including the Child Nutrition Fund, a new platform that co-ordinates donor financing. Governments must also fully fund “the established institutions that have proven effective at protecting millions of lives each year”, the report said, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the

**Gavi vaccine alliance**, which improves access to immunisation for children in the poorest nations. Both organisations are holding funding replenishment rounds next year. **Gates said the Gavi board had originally wanted to raise an additional 20 per cent in funding but had scaled back its ambitions and was now aiming to raise the same as it did five years ago: about \$2bn a year.** But even that target was not certain.”

PS: “... **The Goalkeepers report focuses on assessing progress towards the UN’s sustainable development goals. An analysis by the Seattle-based Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation commissioned by the foundation contributed to its forecasts....”**

## Global Fund annual report (& coverage)

**Global Fund press release – Global Fund Report Highlights Major Strides Against HIV, TB and Malaria, Lowered Prices for Essential Medicines**

<https://www.theglobalfund.org/en/news/2024/2024-09-19-global-fund-report-highlights-major-strides-against-hiv-tb-malaria-lowered-prices-essential-medicines/>

Press release.

**HPW - Big Wins – And Challenges – For Global Fund in Tackling HIV, TB and Malaria**

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/big-wins-and-challenges-for-global-fund/>

Neat coverage, including of the framing by Peter Sands.

**“Global Fund investments have reduced deaths in HIV, tuberculosis and malaria by 61% and saved 65 million lives since 2002 – while simultaneously improving health service delivery,** according to its annual report released on Thursday. **The past year (2023) has brought significant wins:** a 55% reduction in the price of bedaquiline, the main treatment for drug-resistant TB and a 25% cut in the cost of TLD, the preferred first-line HIV treatment. It has also introduced new dual-active ingredient insecticide-treated mosquito nets that are 45% more effective against malaria. **These wins are the result of what The Global Fund terms “marketing-shaping”:** using its substantial buying power to encourage manufacturers to lower prices. ....”

**“While The Global Fund focusses on the three priority diseases, its impact has been far wider. “In 2023, we invested \$1.8 billion, the highest amount ever in a single year, to strengthen health and community systems,”** Executive Director Peter Sands told a media briefing on Wednesday. **“In this grant cycle period, [2024- 2026] we’re looking at investing around \$6 billion in supporting countries to deliver better health outcomes, through pandemic preparedness, through stronger systems and through accelerating their journey towards universal health coverage.”** One significant area of investment, **health facilities’ oxygen supplies,** has assisted around 22 million patients with respiratory illnesses.”

**“The report also quantifies for the first time how its focus on the three diseases has alleviated stress on countries’ health services.** Currently, it supports 25 million people on antiretroviral medication – and this has saved around 1.66 billion hospitalisation days and 1.36 billion outpatient visits, which translates into a saving of around \$85 billion. ....”

PS: **“The Global Fund invests 70% of its funding in the 50 most climate-vulnerable countries, and its operations have been affected by changing climate** – from floods disrupting services to rising temperatures “cooking” valuable medicines. However, the most significant impact is on malaria....”

**“... To support countries to adapt to the impact of extreme weather and climate events, it restructured grants and offered access to emergency funds** in countries such as Zambia, Kenya and Somalia. **The Fund has also established partnerships with the World Bank and the Green Climate Fund that have “significant expertise and resources around both climate mitigation and adaptation”**, said Sands. He stressed that very little funding has gone to climate adaptation in health....”

## Reuters - Global health fund says health, climate, conflict 'triple whammy' hits world's poorest

[Global health fund says health, climate, conflict 'triple whammy' hits world's poorest | Reuters](#)

**“Climate change and conflict risk overshadowing efforts to improve people's health, when in reality the issues overlap**, Peter Sands, head of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, said.....”

“... Despite the progress, Sands said **another pandemic legacy is that donor governments are weary of making money available for health, raising concerns about next year's financing round to cover the Fund's work in 2026-2028.** "It is certainly the case that global health is somewhat eclipsed by issues around climate change and conflict," he said, issues inseparable from health.....”

- Link: Devex - [Global Fund is facing ‘colliding crises’ when tackling HIV, TB, malaria](#)

**“The Global Fund has saved 65 million lives since its founding in 2002.** But Executive Director Peter Sands said the communities they help are now being **hit by climate change, conflicts, and attacks on gender and human rights.**”

## Some more reports

### Guardian - Global cost of failing to invest in women and gender equality is \$10tn a year – UN

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/sep/16/un-women-gender-snapshot-2024-equality>

**“Equal internet access worth \$500bn over five years says report, and warns child marriage may continue till 2092.”**

“Governments are failing to invest in women and girls and, as a result, are missing out on billions in economic gains, according to a new UN report. This year’s [Gender Snapshot report from the UN Women agency](#) found that the global cost of failing to educate young women adequately is an annual \$10tn (£7.6tn); low- and middle-income countries will lose \$500bn over the next five years if they do not close the gender gap on internet use; and improving support for female farmers could add \$1tn to global GDP. It also found that at current rates child marriage could continue until 2092....”

- Related coverage via UN News – [Gender equality: Distant, yet achievable](#)

“While progress has been made worldwide on gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment, critical gender gaps remain in all 17 of the Sustainable Development Goals, according to the latest [Gender Snapshot report](#) released Monday by UN Women and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs. .... “Today’s report reveals the undeniable truth: progress is achievable, but is **not fast enough**,” said Sima Bahous, [UN Women](#) Executive Director....”

## Global Nation – Global Solidarity Report 2024

<https://globalnation.world/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/GSR-2024.pdf>

“In 2024, global solidarity is in the Danger Zone. The findings of the **Global Solidarity Report 2024** issue a stark warning as power shifts continue and divisions between countries seemingly widen. This year, the world has scored just 36 out of a possible 100 on the **Global Solidarity Scorecard**, indicating a dangerously weak level of solidarity that falls far short of that required for effective international cooperation....”

Worryingly, “... **Gen Z** feel less like global citizens than older generations, reversing a trend seen over several decades that younger people tend to be more internationally oriented than older adults . This is true for both richer and poorer countries and is likely linked to rising levels of anxiety among young people...”

With **two calls to action**: First, we need to win the messaging war; Second, we need to transform global public investment.

## Miscellaneous

### FIFA and World Health Organization launch global concussion awareness campaign

<https://www.who.int/news/item/18-09-2024-fifa-and-world-health-organization-launch-global-concussion-awareness-campaign>

“In line with the Strategic Objectives for the Global Game: 2023–2027 and following on from the announcement at [the IFAB AGM in March 2024](#), FIFA is launching **Suspect and Protect: No Match is Worth the Risk**, a concussion awareness campaign, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO)....”

Meanwhile, I'm nearly getting a concussion from watching the FIFA boss (Gianni Infantino) take private jets all the time. Give that man a seat at the 'Health Day' in Baku! : )

## Global health events

### HPW - Africa Can Harness Traditional and Digital Tools to Ensure Better Dementia Care and Treatment

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/how-could-africa-uniquely-approach-dementia-care-treatment/>

With some more coverage on **Nature's Future of Dementia in Africa conference** from last week in Nairobi. "The conference, the first of its kind in Africa, was presented in conjunction with the [Davos Alzheimer's Collaborative](#) and Aga Khan University and ran from 11-12 September in Nairobi."

**"Africa can harness community care, traditional health, exercise and digital tools to treat dementia as its population ages, according to experts on the second day of [Nature's "Future of Dementia in Africa" conference](#). A key focus of the two-day event was the use of traditional, complementary, and alternative medicine in Africa and how it could be integrated with modern healthcare practices...."**

### WHO - "Get it right, make it safe!": WHO highlights safe diagnosis during global campaign for patient safety

<https://www.who.int/news/item/17-09-2024-get-it-right-make-it-safe-who-highlights-safe-diagnosis-during-global-campaign-for-patient-safety>

**"Recognizing the urgent need for a broad-based effort globally to reduce errors in medical diagnosis, the World Health Organization (WHO) is calling on all stakeholders to "Get it right, make it safe!" as part of the World Patient Safety Day campaign on 17 September. The theme 'improving diagnosis for patient safety' was selected in consultation with a wide range of stakeholders – from patients to policy-makers – to highlight how everyone has a vital role to play in reducing the risks and impact of errors in diagnosis."**

**"... Each year, diagnostic errors account for an estimated 16% of preventable harm in health care, with tremendous human and economic consequences. Data suggest that most adults will experience at least one diagnostic error in their lifetime, which can result in prolonged ill health, increased health care costs, or even preventable death...."**

**"... WHO is developing a model to support the implementation of diagnostic safety interventions. On 10–12 September the WHO-convened [World Patient Safety 2024 Global Consultation](#) brought together patients, patient advocates, health workers, health care facility managers, policy-makers, diagnostic safety experts, and academic and research institutions to provide input on the implementation model. Participants also discussed the progress and challenges in implementing the Global Patient Safety Action Plan (GPSAP) 2021–2030. ..."**

## HPW - AI, Conflict Zones, and Crisis Care Take Center Stage at Geneva Cancer Congress

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/ai-conflict-zones-and-crisis-care-take-center-stage-at-geneva-cancer-congress/>

“The 2024 **World Cancer Congress** opened Tuesday in Geneva, bringing together more than 2,000 delegates from more than 120 countries. Its convener said the congress underscores a global commitment to combating the growing burden of cancer.....” As mentioned in the title, some of the key sessions focused on AI & cancer, conflict zones & cancer, and crisis care.

- Related: HPW - [Congress Call for Integrating Cancer into UHC and Tackling Commercial Drivers of Disease](#)

## Global health governance & Governance of Health

Devex - Lammy says FCDO merger can't be reversed, due to China and climate

<https://www.devex.com/news/lammy-says-fcdo-merger-can-t-be-reversed-due-to-china-and-climate-108313>

“U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy vows to make climate and nature crisis “central to all the Foreign Office does” — while insisting the "world" in which DFID was created is long gone....”

“The twin challenges of China and the climate crisis lie behind [the decision](#) not to restore a separate aid department in the United Kingdom, its new foreign and development secretary said.....”

## Global health financing

CGD (blog)- Banga Shouldn't Get His “Biggest” at the Cost of IDA's Best

Charles Kenny and Clemence Landers; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/banga-shouldnt-get-his-biggest-cost-idas-best>

“Last year, World Bank President Ajay Banga [called for](#) the largest-ever replenishment of the Bank's soft-lending arm, IDA. Citing rising demand driven by a slow COVID rebound, the Ukraine invasion, and climate pressures, **he asked donors to step up**. “No amount of creative financial engineering will compensate for the fact that we need more,” he **suggested, setting a \$100 billion replenishment target**. But as we approach the pledging session in [December this year](#) with donors looking distinctly tightfisted, **it is vital that IDA does not try to resort to expensive financial engineering to meet Banga's target at the cost of the quality of its support.....”**

## UHC & PHC

HP&P - Examining sustained sub-national health system development: experience from the Western Cape province, South Africa, 1994-2016

<https://academic.oup.com/heapol/advance-article/doi/10.1093/heapol/czae090/7756914?searchresult=1>

By **Lucy Gilson** et al.

Devex - **Opinion: Africa's surgery crisis is a priority for the new WHO (Afro) director**

By Dr. Nicholas Okumu; <https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-africa-s-surgery-crisis-is-a-priority-for-the-new-who-director-108284>

“By expanding access to surgical care, the new World Health Organization director for Africa has an opportunity to create a more equitable global health landscape.”

## Planetary health

Nature News - **What does peak emissions mean for China — and the world?**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02877-6>

“The milestone is essential for slowing global warming, but the hard work is still to come.”

Devex Newswire: **Taking the path of least resistance on climate finance**

<https://www.devex.com/news/devex-newswire-taking-the-path-of-least-resistance-on-climate-finance-108287>

“**The International Rescue Committee's David Miliband worries that people are taking the easy way out — and leaving the most climate-vulnerable, conflict-affected countries in the lurch.**”

“.... **“Climate and development finance often flows where it is easiest to deliver — from national governments in stable countries. Staggeringly, the more fragile the country is, the less climate finance it gets,”** Miliband said. .... “

PS: “.... He specifically **criticized World Bank guidelines** that governments should be bypassed only “in exceptional circumstances,” arguing that they contribute to a “disjointed and incoherent” aid system. ....”

## Devex - What climate finance is flowing to the most vulnerable countries?

<https://www.devex.com/news/what-climate-finance-is-flowing-to-the-most-vulnerable-countries-108278>

(gated) “In 2009, world leaders committed that they would spend \$100 billion annually from 2020 until 2025 to mitigate the effects of climate change.....”

PS: some dazzling stats: “....According to the [Climate Policy Initiative](#), **\$8.1 trillion is needed annually to address climate change** — which includes both mitigation and adaptation. The amount needed annually might even increase to \$9 trillion by 2030. In 2021/2022, mitigation finance [totaled \\$1.15 trillion](#) — the highest it has ever been. Adaptation finance, however, fell short of the \$212 billion per year goal with only \$63 billion ....”

## Nature News - Academics say flying to meetings harms the climate — but they carry on

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-02965-7>

“A survey at one of the biggest UK research universities finds that **staff often end up flying to meetings despite a preference to avoid air travel.**”

“An overwhelming majority of survey respondents at a top research university agree that [air travel contributes to climate change](#), but many — especially professors and PhD students — often fly to conferences anyway, according to a study published last month in *Global Environmental Change ....*”

PS: “It's the first time that this gap between attitudes and behaviour is actually addressed in a very direct way,” says Sebastian Jäckle, a political scientist at the University of Freiburg, Germany, who once cycled to a conference in Poland. To get a more representative sample, he suggests carrying out surveys at more universities. “

“... Although the survey did not ask participants to explain why they fly to conferences, De Vos says that **researchers have a “fear of missing out” on opportunities to present their research and network with potential collaborators.** “International mobility is often still important for promotion, for getting funding for research grants,” he says.....”

## Cambridge University - Personal carbon footprint of the rich is vastly underestimated by rich and poor alike, study finds

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/personal-carbon-footprint-of-the-rich-is-vastly-underestimated-by-rich-and-poor-alike-study-finds>

“The personal carbon footprint of the richest people in society is grossly underestimated, both by the rich themselves and by those on middle and lower incomes, no matter which country they come from. At the same time, both the rich and the poor drastically overestimate the carbon footprint of the poorest people.”

**“An international group of researchers, led by the Copenhagen Business School, the University of Basel and the University of Cambridge, surveyed 4,000 people from Denmark, India, Nigeria and the United States about inequality in personal carbon footprints – the total amount of greenhouse gases produced by a person’s activities – within their own country.....”**

“The [results](#) are reported in the journal *Nature Climate Change*.....”

### **Project Syndicate - Saving the Planet from Plastics**

Jayati Ghosh; <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/cutting-plastic-production-crucial-to-human-health-climate-change-by-jayati-ghosh-2024-09>

**“While the current debate about plastics often centers on reducing consumption, this narrow focus overlooks the urgent need to curb fossil-fuel-based plastic production. If corporate interests succeed in undermining efforts to reduce plastic manufacturing, they will derail the fight against climate change.....”**

### **HPW - Nearly 30 Metric Tonnes of Plastic Are Improperly Burned Every Year – with Broad, Unexplored Health Impacts**

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/30-metric-tonnes-of-plastic-improperly-burned-each-year/>

**“In developing cities, from Lagos, to Cairo and New Dheli, air pollution generated by the burning of plastic waste is a daily reality – a 30 metric tonne a year reality according to a new *Nature* study from researchers at the University of Leeds in the UK. The study found that some 52 metric tons of plastic waste are improperly disposed of every year. And of that, some 57% of that waste is burned openly, launching a slew of toxic chemicals into the air, and disproportionately affecting communities in the Global South. “**

**“The findings have particular meaning for health, which are not well understood. The resulting smoke is a complex mixture of chemicals – including known or suspected carcinogens like bisphenols, phthalates, and dioxins, and a less-understood threat, microplastics. ...”**

**“The Nature study comes as negotiators gear up for the next round of [negotiations over an international treaty](#) on Plastic Pollution in November in Busan, South Korea (25 November- 1 December). So far, the focus of negotiations has mainly been on the disposal of plastics in landfills and waterways – and not health-harmful air pollution exposures from incineration. .... The study authors hope negotiators will consider the burden of openly burned plastic, a topic that has “not formed a central part of discussions.”....**

PS: “ Using artificial intelligence to model and estimate plastic waste across 50,000 municipalities worldwide, **the researchers identified Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and South-East Asia as “hotspots” for improperly burned or disposed of plastics.** India, followed by Nigeria and Indonesia, tops the list as the largest pollution emitter, producing one -fifth of global plastic pollution at 9.3 metric tonnes of plastic waste. China, Russia, Pakistan, Cambodia, and Brazil also ranked as high pollution producers. ...”

## BBC - New study reveals link between heatwaves and dementia

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c86lz7831nxo>

**“A pioneering study has revealed extensive health risks posed by long-term weather extremes in the UK, as the effects of climate change intensify. Led by the University of Bristol (UoB), the review unites the views of leading climate scientists, meteorologists and public health doctors. It shows how prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures is linked to cognitive decline, kidney disease, skin cancer and the spread of infectious diseases.....”**

## Ecological Economics - Buzzword or breakthrough beyond growth? The mainstreaming of the Wellbeing Economy

Anders Hayden et al; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921800924002726>

**“The Wellbeing Economy (WE) has found considerable mainstream support. Despite having post-growth roots, the WE has taken on pro-growth meanings. The WE risks becoming an empty buzzword as it is mainstreamed. Wellbeing Economy Governments have not moved beyond economic growth. Possible strategies are proposed to strengthen the WE's post-growth character.”**

## Ecological Economics - A comparative review of de- and post-growth modeling studies

Arthur Lauer et al; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921800924002805>

**“In recent years, a small but rapidly growing field of modeling alternatives to growth as represented by the de- (DG) and post-growth (PG) discourses has emerged. We compare selected model characteristics of 75 DG and PG related modeling studies, compiled through a systematic literature review (2000–2023), and link model structures and results to different theoretically contested debates surrounding DG/PG. .... The majority of studies models DG/PG as intentional transition and does not question its compatibility with a capitalist system, while more radical strands of the DG/PG discourse are excluded. Although DG/PG modeling exercises frequently explore the effects of sustainability policies, they represent only a fraction of theoretical DG policy proposals, with the most frequent being: working time reduction, maximum income caps, carbon taxes and a universal basic income. DG/PG modeling studies have demonstrated the importance of integrating biophysical constraints in economic modeling but also have quantitatively assessed the feasibility of environmental integrity and social well-being without growth. Nonetheless, future modeling could be rendered more realistic by paying more attention to the Global South, introducing heterogeneous agents driving sustainability transitions and including multiple planetary boundaries.”**

## BMJ Opinion -One Health models are lacking an indigenous perspective

<https://www.bmj.com/content/386/bmj.q2015>

**“Indigenous peoples can help to build a more holistic approach to the health of humans and nature, writes Arthur Blume.”**

“Indigenous world views have long appreciated and valued the interdependence of the natural world, and have contributed to a holistic and egalitarian frame of reference for understanding healthy relationships. The One Health movements emerged to integrate research and surveillance of human health with that of the natural world and have been proposed as holistic alternatives to the existing colonial model that may help to avoid zoonotic transmission of infectious diseases and health consequences from climate change. **Some One Health oriented researchers have seen the value of including Indigenous peoples in the research, with many assuming that Indigenous peoples would gravitate toward One Health movements. However, none of the One Health models, as currently defined, researched, and practised, appropriately emphasise these holistic assumptions; nor is Indigenous knowledge related to health and wellness reflected in One Health models.** Rather than interpreting how One Health models can help Indigenous peoples, it is time to consider how Indigenous peoples could help One Health models....”

## Covid-19

Cell – Genetic tracing of market wildlife and viruses at the epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic

[https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(24\)00901-2](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(24)00901-2)

Related tweets from Angela Rasmussen:

“Two years ago, we demonstrated that the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic likely began at the **Huanan Market** via zoonosis resulting from the wildlife trade. Many unanswered questions remained about the animals themselves. **Some answers, out today in @CellCellPress.**”

**Amy Maxmen:** “A new paper at a top journal, Cell, suggests that mammals sold at the Huanan market spread SARS-CoV-2 to people at least twice, sparking the pandemic. It's hard to imagine how a lab-leak would leave this genetic trail at animal stalls at the market.”

**Anthony Costello:** “Powerful new genetic evidence links origins of Covid virus to one stall in Wuhan wet market with raccoon dogs, civet cats and bamboo rats as likely intermediate hosts.”

- Coverage of this Cell paper by BBC - [Genetic ghosts suggest Covid's market origins](#)

## Mpox

Lancet Infectious Diseases (Comment) - Mpox control strategies: using behaviour change to complement, not replace, vaccination

Marc C Shamier; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(24\)00614-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(24)00614-5/fulltext)

“.... In *The Lancet Infectious Diseases*, Mateo Prochazka and colleagues present data from a retrospective survey conducted among participants identifying as gay men, bisexual men, men who have sex with men, as transgender, or as non-binary in 23 countries between May 19 and

May 31, 2023, showing that 50.9% of participants **adjusted their sexual behaviour in response to the global MPXV clade IIb outbreak....**”

“...The authors concluded that their study supports the hypothesis that **behavioural changes, along with natural immunity, were the primary drivers of the rapid decline in MPXV clade IIb transmission among MSM at the end of 2022.** Vaccination campaigns began after the outbreak had peaked, and this together with the decline in transmission in regions with lower vaccination rates suggest that vaccination alone was unlikely to be the primary factor in controlling the outbreak....  
...”

“These data are crucial for informing public health policy in the event of resurgence of mpox among MSM, and **highlight the importance of risk communication and community engagement.** ....  
The current mpox outbreak in Africa has rendered mpox a much more complex public health challenge. Although risk communication and community engagement proved effective in reducing transmission in specific groups during the global 2022–23 outbreak, such strategies alone might not be applicable to, or sufficient in, the African context. However, these strategies could become useful again if future outbreaks more widely affect MSM populations, as occurred in 2022.....”

## Infectious diseases & NTDs

### Cidrap News - New polio case in Pakistan

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/polio/new-polio-case-pakistan-gaza-vaccine-campaign-completes-first-week>

“Pakistan has a new polio case this week, according to the **weekly report** from the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)**.....” “In Pakistan, **one wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1)** case was recorded in Islamabad, and 15 WPV1-positive environmental samples were reported in Balochistan, Sindh, Punjab, Islamabad, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.....”

### GAVI - Forgotten pandemic: The cholera emergency in five charts

<https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/forgotten-pandemic-cholera-emergency-five-charts>

“Global statistics for 2023 show an increase in cases and deaths as the cholera pandemic rolls on.”

### Nature News - Mosquito-borne diseases are surging in Europe — how worried are scientists?

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-03031-y>

“Diseases such as West Nile virus and dengue are becoming increasingly common as the insects that spread them move north.”

## **Plos GPH – Beyond the 95s: What happens when uniform program targets are applied across a heterogenous HIV epidemic in Eastern and Southern Africa?**

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003723>

by R H Joseph et al.

## **AMR**

### **Plos GPH - Health system interventions and responses to anti-microbial resistance: A scoping review of evidence from 15 African countries**

Jacob Albin Korem Alhassa et al ;

<https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0003688>

“.... **The review identified four broad impacts of AMR interventions** including 1. Reduction in antibiotics use, 2. Increased adherence to guidelines and protocols, 3. Enhanced laboratory-based AMR surveillance, 4. Development of antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) Action Plans and Teams. However, challenges such as poor laboratory infrastructure, logistical challenges, poor financial commitment and inadequate education and training were identified as challenges impeding the successful implementation of AMR interventions in Africa....”

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

### **Lancet GH (Letter) - Optimism in the tobacco endgame**

Alain Braillon et al;

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(24\)00360-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(24)00360-7/fulltext)

**“In their recently published scoping review and cluster analysis, Sahaana Tamil Selvan and colleagues reported that of 153 countries, 28 are ready and 48 are almost ready for the tobacco endgame; a claim that deserves comment.....”**

“Most nations have no strategic management performance metrics to identify and improve operations to achieve their endgame target. If balanced scorecard principles are ignored, the tobacco endgame could seem to be a reality.....”

- Plus the author’s reply - [Optimism in the tobacco endgame – Authors' reply](#) ( by Yvette van der Eijk et al)

Arguing: “.... *There are indeed many reasons to be pessimistic. There are, however, many reasons to be optimistic as well. ...*

Lancet Public Health - Estimating the effect of transitioning to a strength-based alcohol tax system on alcohol consumption and health outcomes: a modelling study of tax reform in England

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667\(24\)00191-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpub/article/PIIS2468-2667(24)00191-9/fulltext)

- Related comment in the Lancet Public Health: [The Sheffield model's influence in informing alcohol control policy](#)

## Mental health & psycho-social wellbeing

John's Hopkins - What is Public Mental Health?

M Coulsen; <https://publichealth.jhu.edu/2024/what-is-public-mental-health>

“PMH aims to identify and address the psychological, biological, and sociological factors that influence mental health.”

## Neonatal and child health

Lancet GH (Comment) - The 77th World Health Assembly resolution calling for newborn screening, diagnosis, and management of birth defects: moving towards action in low-income and middle-income countries

Pui-Ying Iroh Tam et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(24\)00335-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(24)00335-8/fulltext)

“Worldwide, birth defects affect an estimated 8 million newborns, or 6% of global births, and account for almost half a million newborn deaths annually. The burden and mortality associated with birth defects are highest in low-income and lower-middle-income countries (LMICs). The increasingly high priority accorded to addressing this issue is reflected in the 77th World Health Assembly in 2024, where the resolution to accelerate progress towards reducing maternal, newborn, and child mortality in order to achieve Sustainable Development Goal targets 3.1 and 3.2 included an invitation to member states to consider implementing universal newborn screening, diagnosis, and management, and long-term care of children with birth defects.....”

## Migration & Health

International Journal for Equity in Health - "No Papers, No Treatment": a scoping review of challenges faced by undocumented immigrants in accessing emergency healthcare

<https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-024-02270-9>

Review by S Kiza et al.

## SS&M - Loneliness and social isolation amongst refugees resettled in high-income countries: A systematic review

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953624007949>

By T P Nguyen et al.

## Miscellaneous

### Guardian - US health system ranks last compared with peer nations, report finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/sep/18/american-health-system-ranks-last>

**“The United States health system ranked dead last in an international comparison of 10 peer nations, according to a [new report](#) by the Commonwealth Fund. In spite of Americans [paying nearly double](#) that of other countries, the system performed poorly on health equity, access to care and outcomes.....”**

### Guardian - Global AI fund needed to help developing nations tap tech benefits, UN says

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/sep/19/global-ai-fund-needed-to-help-developing-nations-tap-tech-benefits-un-says>

**“Governments and private companies should contribute to a global artificial intelligence fund that will allow developing nations to benefit from advances in the technology, according to a UN report. The fund would help provide models, computing power and AI-related training programmes, according to [recommendations from the UN secretary general’s high-level AI advisory body](#)....”**

- See also Euractiv – [UN’s high-level advisory body wants international scientific AI panel](#)

An IPCC for AI, in other words.

## Papers & reports

### Lancet Global Health – October issue

Start with the Editorial: [Through the lens of patienthood](#)

**“On Sept 17, we celebrate World Patient Safety Day. This year, the day will focus on improving the timeliness and accuracy of diagnoses, particularly by eliminating factors that damage the**

relationship between health providers and patients, such as health worker burnout and communication breakdowns.....”

Then check out the rest of the issue – most articles already appeared online before, though.

## South Centre Report - Reviewing the Implementation of Select Sustainable Development Goals – A Southern Perspective

By Yuefen Li et al; <https://www.southcentre.int/south-centre-report-september-2024/>

“In line with the focus of the work of the South Centre, **this paper specifically looks at the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Goal 1 – No poverty; Goal 2 – Zero Hunger; **Goal 3 – Good Health and Well-being;** Goal 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure; Goal 13 – Climate Action; Goal 14 – Life Below Water; Goal 15 – Life on Land; and Goal 17 – Partnerships for the Goals. **Particular attention has also been paid to the concerns of least developed countries (LDCs) in relation to the SDGs.** The paper thus seeks to provide a review of the trajectory of the implementation of the aforementioned SDGs in the years since 2015 from the perspective of the **Global South.** It then spells out the drivers for the progress made and the challenges and the changing narratives in the world today. It also provides some concrete recommendations which can support developing and least developed countries in their sustainable development pathways.”

## Results UK - ‘Bad loans, poor nutrition’ report

<https://results.org.uk/2024/09/19/press-release-bad-loans-poor-nutrition-report-launch/>

“**Countries worst affected by food crises spend \$40 billion on external public debt service – UK must show genuine solidarity.**”

“**New research published today by Results UK on the eve of the United Nations (UN) Summit of the Future** calls on the UK to live up to its responsibilities to the countries most affected by food crises. .... **The report finds that the 16 countries most affected by food crises paid \$40.3 billion on external public debt service last year, up from \$25.8 billion in 2021.** Furthermore, the governments of these countries are spending an average of 1.9 times the amount on external public debt payments than they are spending on health....”

“**....the UK occupies a unique position in the global debt system, and thus has a particular responsibility to resolve debt crises gripping the Global South and to prevent future crises....**”

## CGD (blog) - A New Framework for Strategic Global Action on the Care Economy

K Harris et al; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/new-framework-strategic-global-action-care-economy>

“In an effort to drive policy change and support global coordination efforts on the care economy, **a new Global Roadmap for Action on the Care Economy (GRAC)** has been developed by the [Center for Global Development](#), [The Asia Foundation](#), [CIPPEC](#), [Women Deliver](#), and the [International Center for Research on Women \(ICRW\)](#). The roadmap was developed in support of the [Global Alliance for](#)

[Care](#), providing a strategic framework for transforming how care is recognized, valued, and represented on a global scale....”

## Blogs & op-eds

### CGD - The Role of Bridge-Builders in Global Policy Reform

R Glennerster; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/role-bridge-builders-global-policy-reform>

First blog by the new CGD president. “... for my first official CGD blog post, I wanted to **share some lessons about delivering policy reform, drawing on TaRL’s journey to Africa....”**

**PS: the TaRL journey stands for** the journey that had brought an innovative method of teaching ([Teaching at the Right Level](#) or TaRL) from Mumbai to [5 million](#) children across the African continent.

## Tweets (via X & Bluesky)

### James Packard Love

“WHO negotiators are being asked to include language in the pandemic agreement that literally defines technology transfer as something done under voluntary agreements. But while this is typical and maybe the preferred approach, it is **certainly not the definition or the only option**. See recitals 32.a and 32.b of this EU regulation. #inb11...”

“**This morning** at WHO pandemic treaty negotiations, **the South Centre drew attention to the appalling effort to define transfer of Technology " to mean non-coercive transfer and on mutually agreed terms.**" Non-coercive is not a term in other agreements. It undermines regulatory role of the state.”

### M Kavanagh

“The political bargain on the table is fairly simple: South agrees to share data, epi, samples; North agrees to share benefits and technology. This new draft tells me that the negotiations are not happening in a serious political realm of diplomacy.”

### Elizabeth Gadd

“**Please can we stop using the word “top” when describing anything research-related: top researchers, top journals, top institutions, top positions.** It reinforces false hierarchies that mitigate against the broad diversity of contributions needed for research to succeed.”

### Charles Kenny

(quoting an [Economist article](#) ) “**The world’s 72 poorest countries attracted just 17% of bilateral aid, down from 40% a decade ago.**”