

# IHP newsletter 834 – AI summary

Dear Colleagues,

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

This issue, dated 13 June 2025, reflects on the feeling that "pretty much every day feels like 'Friday the 13th'". We cover significant events such as the 4th G20 Health Working Group meeting in South Africa focusing on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (PPPR), the G7 Leaders' meeting in Canada, and the FfD4 conference in Seville. Also highlighted are the upcoming GAVI replenishment, UNICEF and Pandemic Fund board meetings, and advocacy for the UN High-Level meeting on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs). Earlier this week, the WHO extended the Mpox emergency and launched its Global Initiative on health equity for persons with disabilities. A pressing concern is the UN's financial predicament, leading to the need to "do less with less," with profound implications for the most vulnerable populations globally. On a more optimistic note, Global Action on Men's Health marked International Men's Health Week by calling for a Global Prostate Cancer Initiative. UNFPA's State of the World Population report, 'The real fertility crisis,' revealed that skyrocketing living costs, persistent gender inequality, and future uncertainty deny many the freedom to start families.

**This issue's Featured Article, "BRICS (+ ) and the future of global health: Building materials in a multipolar world" by Erik Elliott,** discusses the reshaping of global health as BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) rise as a counterweight to waning Western influence. The past decade saw a transition to a multipolar world, with BRICS nations achieving massive economic development. The expansion to BRICS+, including Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, and Indonesia, significantly boosts the bloc's weight, yet complicates its cohesion due to diverse political systems. With a combined GDP now exceeding G7 nations and hosting approximately 45% of the world's population, BRICS+ are emerging as influential global actors.

A significant shift is the US administration's 90-day halt on foreign development assistance and stop-work directive, reflecting more insular policies from the former Western hegemon. This withdrawal creates a void that BRICS+ nations, aligning with the New Public Health Order in Africa and the Lusaka agenda, appear eager to fill. Health has become a key area of BRICS+ collaboration, with annual meetings of health ministers since 2011 focusing on communicable diseases, access to medicines, and universal health coverage. The establishment of the New Development Bank, providing multilateral South-South aid, marks a major shift from the traditional North-South divide, aiming for mutually beneficial relationships over paternalistic donor-recipient models. The unique value proposition of BRICS+ lies in their shared development experience, exemplified by China's success in poverty reduction and healthcare system construction under resource constraints, which enables them to offer relevant solutions to other developing countries. China has also stepped up substantially, pledging \$500M to the WHO and demonstrating growing ambition with 194 delegates at WHA78. India, South Africa, and Brazil have similarly engaged in global health diplomacy.

However, BRICS+ countries face challenges common to aid, such as the tension between donor-driven projects and recipient national strategies, and the risk of aid being used as a geopolitical tool. They often lack cohesion, with fewer harmonised approaches and broader ideological differences complicating multilateral health interventions compared to the G7. The global health landscape faces a crossroads: a 40% decline in external health aid globally, mainly due to Western cuts, poses acute risks to aid-reliant countries. While some BRICS nations and philanthropic foundations are stepping in, the true opportunity lies in coordinated funding towards LMIC-identified key areas. The challenge in this multipolar world is not who will "lead," but whether the BRICS+ and the West can jointly support health leadership in LMICs through 'mutually beneficial partnerships'.

## Highlights of the week

### G7 (Canada) & G20 (South-Africa) updates

- The 4th G20 Health Working Group meeting in South Africa (10–13 June) focused on **pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR)**, identified as one of the five G20 Health Working Group priorities. <https://www.gov.za/news/media-advisories/conferences-summits-seminars-and-workshops/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-delivers>
- South Africa used the 4th G20 Health Working Group meeting to **advocate for concrete strategies to operationalise vaccine equity** as a core pillar of global pandemic readiness, addressing barriers to countermeasures in LMICs and prioritising local manufacturing capacity. <https://www.gov.za/news/media-advisories/conferences-summits-seminars-and-workshops/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-delivers>
- South Africa's Minister of Health, Dr. PA Motsoaledi, stated that the **finalisation of the Pandemic Agreement and Benefit-sharing (PABS) Annex is a political test**, underscoring the need to move beyond rhetoric to tangible results. <https://www.gov.za/news/speeches/minister-aaron-motsoaledi-fourth-health-working-group-meeting-south-african-g20>
- The G7 Leaders' summit in Canada (15–17 June) will address **sustainable development, including global health**, with contributions from experts like Tedros on global health financing and Ilona Kickbusch on digital health transformation. <https://edition.pagesuite.com/html5/reader/production/default.aspx?pubname=&pubid=7bf34fb7-b1da-4707-94b3-df89df4d7aa3>

#### Run-up to FfD4 in Seville, Spain

- The upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) in Seville, Spain (30 June–3 July) will tackle critical pressure points including **debt restructuring for low-income countries, development cooperation, trade tensions, and the push for a fairer global tax system**. <https://www.devex.com/news/devex-invested-what-we-re-watching-at-financing-for-development-in-seville-110265>
- Although FfD4 outcomes will not be legally binding, their **influence is expected to ripple across institutions and capital flows**, impacting global development practitioners. <https://www.devex.com/news/devex-invested-what-we-re-watching-at-financing-for-development-in-seville-110265>
- A Project Syndicate op-ed highlights FfD4 as a chance to revitalise the development-finance agenda, with the UN Secretary-General's Expert Group on Debt proposing measures centered on **multilateral system reform, cooperation between borrowing countries, and national policy**. <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/the-conference-on-financing-for-development-can-drive-progress-without-the-us-by-jayati-ghosh-2025-06>
- The IMF's contribution to FfD4 underlines that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030 is **increasingly unlikely, requiring US\$3.5 trillion over 2025–29** for significant progress in key areas like education, health, and infrastructure, necessitating strong domestic efforts and international support. <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/Policy-Papers/Issues/2025/06/05/The-4th-Financing-for-Development-Conference-Contribution-of-the-IMF-to-the-International-567479>
- The Finance in Common System (FiCS) highlights the **essential role of Public Development Banks (PDBs)** in scaling up sustainable development financing, given their mandate to finance underserved areas, mobilise private finance, and create conducive market environments. <https://financeincommon.org/sites/default/files/2025-02/RAPPORT%20FiCS%20-%20Confe%CC%81rence%20FfD%204%20-%20Digital%20Version.pdf>
- The draft outcome document for FfD4 is **ambitious and much-needed**, according to Li Junhua, UN Undersecretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and Secretary-General of the conference. <https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-in-seville-we-can-deliver-a-game-changer-for-development-finance-110195>
- A Project Syndicate piece argues that **progress on shared challenges is possible without US involvement** at FfD4, given its historical record, and that other countries must fill the global leadership gap. <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/the-conference-on-financing-for-development-can-drive-progress-without-the-us-by-jayati-ghosh-2025-06>
- The FfD4 outcome document focuses on **enabling greater domestic resource mobilisation** through reforms to the outdated international tax system and addressing illicit financial flows, which are crucial for financing health care, education, and climate-change mitigation. <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/the-conference-on-financing-for-development-can-drive-progress-without-the-us-by-jayati-ghosh-2025-06>

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- An African International People's Tribunal, gathering over 200 people on 18-19 June 2025, will **challenge IMF and World Bank policies**, scrutinising debt-dependent development models, austerity measures, non-democratic policy designs, and global financial systems rooted in colonial legacies. <https://www.environewsnigeria.com/african-tribunal-to-challenge-imf-world-bank-policies/>

#### Run-up to GAVI Replenishment

- **Cuts to UK's global vaccination funding would risk avoidable child deaths, experts warn** <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/jun/08/global-vaccination-funding-cuts-threaten-uk-soft-power-and-pandemic-resilience> Scientists and aid experts caution that any reduction in UK funding for Gavi could harm the country's soft power, diminish its resilience to infectious diseases, and lead to preventable child deaths.
- The UK has historically been one of Gavi's main funders, providing over £2 billion in the past four years, but **major reductions are expected due to cuts in the UK aid budget**.

#### More on Global Health Governance & Financing

- **Germany steps into the void USAID left behind** <https://www.devex.com/news/special-edition-germany-steps-into-the-void-usaid-left-behind-110250> Germany is positioning itself to fill the international leadership vacuum left by the United States, with plans for a new North-South Commission to develop policies for a multipolar world and champion multilateral cooperation.
- The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) is **transforming into a partnership connector** rather than a traditional project implementer, with 50% of its financing now flowing through private sector channels.
- South Africa's minister, Maropene Ramokgopa, highlighted how the **withdrawal of support from the U.S. global AIDS initiative PEPFAR has severely impacted remote areas**.
- She emphasised the **dangers of aid dependency** and called for replacing "co-dependency" with "mutual benefit" partnerships, noting Africa loses \$90 billion annually to illicit financial flows that could fund domestic health programmes.
- **Rebuilding the Aid Consensus** <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/governments-must-rebuild-consensus-on-international-development-assistance-by-kevin-watkins-2025-06> Kevin Watkins argues that Western political leaders must make the most of shrinking aid budgets and adopt long-term measures to cultivate international solidarity to restore a principled approach to international development.
- **Nihilistic anti-multilateralism in the US and fiscal pressures combined with right-wing populist narratives in Europe are fuelling the attack on aid**.
- **Philanthropies rush to save measles surveillance network pushed to brink of collapse by U.S. cuts** <https://www.statnews.com/2025/06/10/philanthropies-rush-to-save-measles-surveillance-network-pushed-to-brink-of-collapse-by-u-s-cuts/> Philanthropic organisations are stepping in to rescue the Global Measles and Rubella Laboratory Network (GMRLN), a critical disease surveillance initiative facing collapse due to the cessation of US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding.
- **Internal battle playing out within UNICEF shows just how hard cuts and mergers can be** <https://www.devex.com/news/devex-dish-after-the-trumpquake-the-future-of-us-food-aid-takes-shape-110271> UNICEF's "Future Focus Initiative," a restructuring plan involving a 25% cut in its core budget and the consolidation of regional offices, is facing strong internal opposition, particularly concerning its disproportionate impact on field operations.
- **Remarks at the opening segment of the Annual Session of the UNICEF Executive Board** <https://usun.usmission.gov/remarks-at-the-opening-segment-of-the-annual-session-of-the-unicef-executive-board/> The US Mission to the UN expressed strong opposition to UNICEF's current draft

strategic plan due to references to "diversity, equity, and Inclusion, gender ideology, and abortion," advocating for a focus on core mandate and parental authority.

- **The lack of women in global health leadership has a cure** <https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-the-lack-of-women-in-global-health-leadership-has-a-cure-110218> A Devex opinion piece argues that structural reforms addressing organisational culture, fair hiring processes, and a true commitment to gender equity are needed to increase female leadership in global health, as evidenced by reports showing many multilateral organisations have never been led by a woman.
- **Charting the Fallout of Aid Cuts** <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/charting-fallout-aid-cuts> A blog from CGD uses projections of bilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) flows to illustrate how donors are shifting their approach and which low- and lower-middle-income countries will be most affected by these cuts, necessitating a more coordinated approach.

## Global Tax Justice

- **Millionaire exodus did not occur, study reveals** <https://taxjustice.net/press/millionaire-exodus-did-not-occur-study-reveals/> The Tax Justice Network, in collaboration with Patriotic Millionaires UK and Tax Justice UK, revealed that a widely reported "millionaire exodus" in 2024, which influenced the UK Labour government's tax reforms, was based on questionable data from a firm selling golden passports and represented a negligible percentage of millionaire populations.
- Alex Cobham of the Tax Justice Network criticised the media reporting and government response, stating that **"fictional millionaire 'exodus' based on questionable data" is used to block positive change** towards taxing the super-rich.

## Trump 2.0

- **Trump administration to cut all USAID overseas roles and axe thousands of staff** [https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/10/trump-fires-usaid-overseas-employees?CMP=share\\_btn\\_url](https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jun/10/trump-fires-usaid-overseas-employees?CMP=share_btn_url) The Trump administration is implementing a drastic restructuring of US foreign aid, eliminating all USAID overseas positions worldwide by 30 September and transferring control of foreign assistance programmes directly to the State Department.
- **Stop TB Partnership retains US funds but must revise scope, cut staff** <https://www.devex.com/news/stop-tb-partnership-retains-us-funds-but-must-revise-scope-cut-staff-110246> Despite retaining its US funding after a turbulent period, the Stop TB Partnership must revise its scope of work and lay off staff, illustrating the far-reaching impacts of the Trump administration's reshuffling of foreign aid.
- **'We Dissent': NIH Staff Hit Out Against 'Politicised' Research** <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/we-dissent-nih-staff-hit-out-against-politicised-research/> Over 300 employees of the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) have urged the NIH director to "restore grants delayed or terminated for political reasons" and to reinstate staff, criticising policies that undermine the NIH mission.
- **Health Secretary RFK Jr. abruptly fires CDC vaccine advisory panel** <https://www.statnews.com/2025/06/10/health-secretary-rfk-jr-fires-cdc-vaccine-advisory-panel/> Health Secretary RFK Jr. abruptly fired the CDC vaccine advisory panel, a move he stated was needed to "re-establish public confidence," though experts expressed shock and described it as "dangerous and unprecedented".
- **NIH terminates network aimed at stopping pandemics before they start** <https://www.science.org/content/article/nih-terminates-network-aimed-stopping-pandemics-they-start> The Trump administration is closing a network of 10 NIH-funded Centers for Research in Emerging Infectious Diseases (CREID), deeming their research, which involved collecting and characterising potential pandemic pathogens, "unsafe" and not a good use of taxpayer funding.
- **GOP lawmakers are pushing back on President Donald Trump's proposed cuts to the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).**
- The White House has conveyed to GOP leaders that **they will maintain life-saving treatments under PEPFAR and preserve some prevention programmes**, in response to concerns from House Republicans.
- **The Trump Administration's Foreign Aid Review: Status of PEPFAR** <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-trump-administrations-foreign-aid-review-status-of-pepfar/> KFF provides

an update on the status of PEPFAR under the Trump administration's foreign aid review as of 10 June, detailing what to watch regarding its future.

- **HHS reverses hundreds of CDC firings** <https://www.statnews.com/2025/06/10/hhs-reverses-hundreds-of-cdc-firings/> The Trump administration has reversed the firings of over 450 CDC staffers, including those in divisions handling cruise ship safety, sexually transmitted infection prevention, and global health.

### PPPR (Pandemic Preparedness and Response)

- There is an **imperative need for a global pandemic risk assessment framework** to shift from reactive responses to risk-informed preparedness. A workshop hosted by the UN Foundation and other partners aimed to advance a global risk assessment agenda for pandemics and infectious disease hazards.
- New animal studies from the US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) suggest that **H5N1 bird flu is capable of airborne transmission**, raising concerns about its potential to cause a future pandemic. Previously, it was believed to spread primarily through direct contact with infected animals or their bodily fluids.

### Mpox

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** has **extended the mpox emergency** (Public Health Emergency of International Concern - PHEIC) due to an upsurge in Africa, affecting 25 countries. The emergency was first declared in August 2024 for the escalating situation in Africa.
- A **surge of mpox infections in Sierra Leone** is particularly concerning, driven by the same viral strain that caused a global outbreak in 2022, and raising fears of wider spread in West Africa.
- Access to mpox vaccines is compromised by their **excessive price and Trump administration cuts**, according to a Public Citizen report. Africa is managing with significantly fewer MVA-BN doses per mpox case compared to the US.

### Cholera in SSA (Sub-Saharan Africa)

- Cholera outbreaks in Africa are primarily **driven by years of under-investment in water and sanitation (WASH)**, as highlighted by the Africa Centres of Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). Four countries – Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Sudan, and South Sudan – account for over 85% of the continent's cholera cases and have above-average death rates, all characterized by poor access to WASH.
- African Heads of State from the 20 worst-affected countries have resolved to **create a continental Incident Management Support Team (IMST)** for cholera and establish national presidential task forces to strengthen coordination, mobilise domestic resources, and enforce accountability.
- Africa needs 54 million doses of oral cholera vaccine annually but receives barely half, leading to calls for **scaled-up local production and secure supply**. Currently, only one manufacturer produces the vaccine globally.

### UHC & PHC (Universal Health Coverage & Primary Health Care)

- The **WHO Global initiative on health equity for persons with disabilities** was **officially launched** on 10 June 2025, aiming to address the health inequities experienced by over 1.3 billion people worldwide with disabilities.
- Despite efforts, **nearly all Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators for persons with disabilities are off track**. The 18th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP18) is focusing on enhancing public awareness ahead of other major international events.
- A supplement in BMJ Global Health features papers on the **role of a primary healthcare approach in the era of polycrises**, including its effectiveness in COVID-19 pandemic response in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

## NCDs (Non-Communicable Diseases)

- With stagnating development assistance, countries are exploring **innovative health financing options for NCDs**, ranging from crowdfunding and microinsurance to equity investments and public-private partnerships. A new technical brief provides a framework and real-world examples for integrating these approaches.
- Dementia, a deadly condition, needs to be taken more seriously by the UN and WHO, particularly by **classifying it as a major non-communicable disease** to build awareness and increase funding. The upcoming UN's fourth high-level meeting on NCDs in September is an opportunity for this recognition.
- Vaccines have a central role in **preventing and managing NCDs** like cancer, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes, which are responsible for 75% of deaths worldwide. The UN's new political declaration on NCDs should maximize the benefits from vaccines and ensure adult immunization is a core component.
- There are calls for **high-level commitments to integrate NCDs into the Global Health Security Agenda** for more effective action in humanitarian crises, advocating for a coordinated integrated health systems response focusing on pre-crisis infrastructure, surveillance, workforce, and overall health system readiness.

## Commercial determinants of Health

- The WHO has launched a **new Collaborating Centre on Alcohol Policy and Public Health Research** at the University of Stirling, Scotland, to support alcohol policy research in low- and middle-income countries, particularly regarding licensing, marketing regulation, and unrecorded alcohol. LMICs bear a high burden of alcohol-related deaths and often lack comprehensive alcohol policies.
- A new guide from the Global Health Advocacy Incubator (GHAi) shows how **legal strategies can strengthen public health advocacy**, helping advocates draft stronger laws and hold health-harming industries accountable. This includes mapping legal terrain, turning policy goals into legal drafts, considering legal action, and monitoring and adapting responses.

## Conflict/War & health

- A systematic review found that **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in Africa are engaged in advocacy, social and medical provision, material support, health diplomacy, and accountability** regarding conflict and health, filling service gaps where governmental attention is lacking.
- **Monitoring mortality in fragile and conflict-affected settings is crucial** but often incomplete, with a need for accurate and up-to-date data by sex, age, and location to guide public health strategies, humanitarian response, and support justice. This requires collaboration between various disciplines and investment in civil registration and vital statistics.
- The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) reports that **global displacement has doubled in the last decade, reaching 123.2 million people by the end of 2024**, largely driven by protracted conflicts in Sudan, Myanmar, and Ukraine. However, **funding levels for UNHCR remain largely unchanged**, endangering vulnerable displaced communities and destabilising regional peace.

## UN Ocean Summit (UNOC3) & other Planetary Health news

- A new study reveals that **ocean acidification has already crossed a crucial planetary health threshold**, with the average ocean condition worldwide by 2020 already very close to, and in some regions beyond, the "safe" limit for acidification.
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres called for an end to ocean "plunder" at the Third United Nations Ocean Conference in France, urging nations to move from "**plunder to protection**". He stressed the importance of multilateralism, bold pledges, including a **biodiversity target to protect at least 30% of the ocean by 2030**, tackling plastic pollution, overfishing, and greater governance of the high seas. There is a push to get the **High Seas Treaty (BBNJ treaty) in place**, with expectations that the crucial threshold of 60 ratifying countries could be reached this year.

- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – country-level plans to limit global warming – are due in September and can serve as a **roadmap to sustainable development**.
- A World Resources Institute paper highlights the **compelling investment case for climate adaptation**, finding that every \$1 invested can yield over \$10.50 in benefits, with health sector investments offering some of the highest returns.
- New data reveal that the **World Bank's Development Policy Financing (DPF) for 'climate finance' carries a strong private sector bias**, potentially undermining a just transition.
- The **World Bank will re-enter the nuclear energy sector for the first time in decades**, signalling a shift in its clean energy approach, while debate continues on the use of fossil fuels, particularly gas.
- A WHO-WMO initiative, supported by Rockefeller Foundation and Wellcome Trust, aims to **link climate and weather data with health** by fostering collaboration between national meteorological agencies and ministries of health in at least 80 low- and middle-income countries.
- A study by Nanyang Technological University in Singapore found that **cities around the world are sinking at a "worrying speed"** due to groundwater pumping, affecting nearly 76 million people in coastal cities across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Americas.
- **BRICS countries have developed a shared position on climate finance**, outlined in a Leaders' Framework Declaration, which calls for reforms to multilateral development banks and increased concessional financing for the Global South.
- The WHO/Europe launched a new initiative, the Pan-European Commission on Climate and Health (PECCH), warning that the **climate emergency is a health crisis "that is already killing us,"** with Europe warming faster than any other WHO region and significant impacts on health.
- Policymakers should set a **separate volume target for planetary waste management** (carbon removals) independently of emission reductions, as it produces a more reliable and sustainable result.

#### Access to medicines, vaccines & other health technologies

- **Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla called for a US government-led push to increase overall drug spending outside the US**, comparing it to NATO's defence spending commitment, amid concerns about President Trump's "most favored nation" drug pricing policy. Bourla suggested that if the US resorts to price controls, Pfizer might consider not making drugs available for reimbursement in some countries if prices don't increase there.
- Estimates show that **South-East Asia, Africa, and the Americas carry the most substantive burden of chikungunya virus infections**, indicating a need for vaccine campaigns against new outbreaks and routine immunization in heavily endemic areas to reduce transmission.

#### Some reports of the week

- A new UNFPA report, 'The real fertility crisis', reveals that **economic barriers and sexism, rather than a rejection of parenthood, are preventing millions of people from having the number of children they want**. Factors include high parenthood costs, job insecurity, expensive housing, and concerns over the future.
- Global Action on Men's Health (GAMH) is calling for a **new Global Prostate Cancer Initiative from the WHO**, as prostate cancer is the second most frequently diagnosed cancer in men and its cases are expected to double by 2040. GAMH highlights that men's health, including prostate cancer, has been neglected for too long.

#### Miscellaneous

- Despite commitments to equity, diversity, and inclusion, **leading science publishers have maintained large and persistent gender pay gaps favouring men since 2018**.
- An updated set of **transgender and non-binary affirming strategies** is urgently needed to reinforce social safety amidst escalating discriminatory legislation worldwide, which restricts gender-affirming health care, legal recognition, and access to public spaces.

- A new book, 'How Not to Die (Too Soon)' by Devi Sridhar, argues for **holding governments accountable for policies that significantly influence life expectancy**, shifting the focus from individual health optimization to societal accountability.
- Subnational survey data from 75 low and middle-income countries (LMICs) reveal **persistent and stark inequalities in living standards**, with 94.9% of households lacking material prerequisites for at least one of ten decent living standards, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and among rural, agrarian households.
- The **World Bank has revised the global poverty line from \$2.15 to \$3.00 per person per day**, which has reclassified an additional 125 million people as extremely poor in 2022. By 2025, 808 million people (9.9% of the world's population) are projected to live in extreme poverty, making the goal of eradicating extreme poverty by 2030 highly unlikely. Sub-Saharan Africa's share of the world's extreme poor is expected to increase from 69% to 73% by the end of 2025.
- The **World Bank has cut its forecasts for global GDP growth and warned that the 2020s are on course to be the weakest decade for the global economy since the 1960s**, blaming Donald Trump's trade war and international discord. The report states that economic progress in developing countries has "all but ground to a halt," urging governments to negotiate an end to trade tensions and developing economies to rebuild public finances.
- Blogs on the World Bank's 'State of Social Protection report 2025' argue that the bank's long-term advocacy of poverty-targeted schemes and social registries **contradicts its own research and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic**.
- A comment in Nature Africa discusses whether **Africa can eliminate human rabies deaths by 2030**, emphasizing the need for a realistic, grassroots approach.