

IHP news 851 : Gearing up for November

(24 October 2025)

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,

After last week's rather lengthy intro on the World Health Summit, I'm sure you won't mind I keep it short this week.

In this issue, among others we come back on the **annual IMF/World Bank meetings**, there's also a rather big chunk of other '**global health governance & financing**' news (as usual these days), and we list a number of reports and advocacy efforts **ahead of the G20 meetings in South-Africa and COP 30 in Brazil**, both foreseen for November. As you probably know, the **Global Fund replenishment** is scheduled as a G20 side event this time. Meanwhile both [scientific analyses](#) and '[on the ground](#)' [reporting by investigative journalists](#) are increasingly mapping the devastating impact of the donor funding cuts from this year. While the ongoing [4th International Conference on Public Health in Africa](#) (CPHIA) (23-25 October) mostly [tries to look ahead](#) (with African leadership now firmly a [co-architect](#) of the future global health ecosystem, even if the road towards more health sovereignty [still faces many obstacles](#)), no doubt the many casualties of the 'transition' period are also being mourned in Durban.

On a more positive note, on **World Menopause Day** (18 Oct) [Global Leaders Launched the 'Power in Menopause Declaration' Calling upon the WHO and National Governments to Develop the First-Ever Policies and Guidance to Support Menopausal Women](#). And today (24 Oct) is [World Polio Day](#).

Over here in Western Europe, "**The Beast has – finally? - arrived**", as a speaker noted at the [Medico International counter event](#) in Berlin last week, meaning the neoliberal beast of austerity and massive cuts to the welfare state, so familiar to many LMICs over the past decades (and also Greece, not so long ago). You don't have to be the **UN special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights** [to connect some of the political dots](#).

With that in mind, I hope [Generation Z](#) will also ["take to the barricades"](#) in this part of the world. Even if I know they're "no nonsense" and perhaps less ideological than us "oldies", the global health observer in me is hopeful. Quoting a Foreign Policy analysis, "*.... If this new revolutionary movement has demonstrated anything, it's that **no one should underestimate its infectiousness.***" :) Or if you want it on a less upbeat note, just check out [Edelman's latest Trust Barometer](#).

Enjoy your reading.

Kristof Decoster

(ps: I'm taking a few weeks off - **IHP resident Rajeev BR** will take over)

Featured Article

Why is the integration of Tuberculosis and Type 2 Diabetes related Health Services necessary in Mozambique? A reflection based on a PhD research idea

[Denise Michela Milice](#)

Tuberculosis (TB) remains the [world's leading cause of death](#) from a single infectious agent. Combating this global epidemic requires combined actions against its [five main health-related risk factors](#), namely, diabetes mellitus, HIV, smoking, undernutrition, and disorders due to alcohol use.

I am particularly interested in the association of TB and type 2 diabetes (T2D), the scientific evidence for which dates back to 2011, when the WHO and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease launched the [Framework that recommends integrated services for joint management of TB and T2D](#).

Although this Framework was already launched fourteen years ago, to date, in Mozambique, the integration of TB and T2D health services hasn't really materialized in a more or less structured way. Integration would ideally include collaboration between TB and non-communicable (NCDs) programmes on screening, diagnosis, treatment and management of T2D in people with TB and vice-versa.

The lack of integrated action to respond to this TB-T2D comorbidity is worrying because the incidence of TB in Mozambique is estimated to be one of the highest worldwide at [361 new TB cases per 100.000 inhabitants](#). Additionally, data from the NCDs national survey ([InCrónica 2024](#)) indicate that from 2005 to 2024 there was an increase in the prevalence of hyperglycemia/diabetes from 3,8% to 4,1%.

Against this backdrop, I have just started my PhD in which I intend to explore as the main research question, *"how can the Mozambican health system better assess and address the challenges of responding to the health care needs of individuals living with TB and T2D comorbidity?"* To answer these questions, I have designed a mixed methods study that uses quantitative and qualitative methods, including a cross-sectional component, policy document review, key informant interviews, interviews with individuals who have both conditions and stakeholders' engagement.

Continue to read the **full article**, see IHP: [Why is the integration of Tuberculosis and Type 2 Diabetes related Health Services necessary in Mozambique? A reflection based on a PhD research idea](#)

Highlights of the week

Structure of the Highlights section

- Annual meetings IMF/World Bank: final analysis
- More on Global Health Governance & Financing
- More on Reimagining global health & development
- More on Global Tax & Debt justice
- CPHIA Durban (22-25 October)
- UHC & PHC
- PPPR
- AMR
- More on Health Emergencies
- Trump 2.0
- World Menopause Day & other SRHR (& child/adolescent) news
- NCDs & Commercial Determinants of Health
- NTDs
- Run-up to COP30
- More on Planetary Health
- Access to Medicines, vaccines & other health technologies
- Conflict/War & Health
- Miscellaneous

You will have noticed that there's no longer 'the Five reads of the week' selection: too difficult :) If you want a short summary of the week's Highlights, we recommend the **AI summary** (pdf).

Annual meetings IMF/World Bank: final analysis

BWP - Annual Meetings 2025 Wrap-up: IMF and World Bank declare uncertainty the "new normal" amid spectacle showcasing US and private capital interests

[Bretton Woods Project](#)

"The BWIs' loyalty to Washington and private capital was on full display, as austerity and private capital mobilisation remain the prescribed medicines to compounding crises and unsustainable debt levels. **Civil society continues to find itself sidelined**, as spaces for critical debate and broader accountability further narrow. **Promises of reform to the international financial architecture rang hollow, deepening the crisis of legitimacy facing the Bank and Fund** as multilateralism continues to face headwinds....."

Eurodad - IMF and World Bank double down on private finance model as debt crisis reaches historic levels

https://www.eurodad.org/annual_meetings_2025_reaction

Eurodad Press release: “The outcome of this week's Annual Meetings of the World Bank and IMF show that the institutions are moving in the wrong direction. “

“Amidst geopolitical tensions and uncertainty, and the worsening debt crisis in many Global South countries, the **World Bank and IMF Annual Meetings outcomes show the institutions are moving in the wrong direction - favouring fiscal consolidation and private sector interests over timely and fair solutions.....**

PS: “Both the World Bank and IMF also **appeared to be bowing to U.S. pressure** to narrow their mandates on issues like climate and gender inequality. “... *“This - together with the G20’s **woefully inadequate Declaration on debt sustainability** - confirmed the **urgency to move the agenda on debt, development finance and financial stability to the United Nations, a democratic negotiating space where all countries have an equal say.**”*

- Link: [Menafem - Feminist Reflections on the 2025 IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings: Debt, Gender, Menstrual Health and the G20’s Limited Response](#)

Global Capital - World Bank abandons billions to trillions dream but still seeks scale

<https://www.globalcapital.com/globalmarkets/article/2fh1sw84au1jovgwr2hhe/ssa/supras-and-agencies/world-bank-abandons-billions-to-trillions-dream-but-still-seeks-scale>

The ‘billions to trillions’ agenda was launched a decade ago, as you might recall. While dropping it, “...The WB is still looking for ways to mobilize private capital to increase its impact. “

Devex - From aid to investment: Reshaping Africa’s path to growth

<https://www.devex.com/news/from-aid-to-investment-reshaping-africa-s-path-to-growth-111141>

“A shift from aid to investment will require stronger institutions, better-prepared projects, and renewed focus on local capacity, African leaders said at Devex Impact House on the sidelines of the World Bank-IMF annual meetings.”

Along the same lines, see [AVAC](#): “The World Bank-IMF Annual Meetings wrapped up last week **highlighting a critical shift in development finance.** African leaders and multilateral agencies signaled a **move away from traditional aid models and toward investment-led growth.** They emphasized the **need for stronger institutions, locally driven capacity, and private-sector engagement rather than just grants....”**

More on Global Health Governance & Financing

Big section this week, with among others the **WHO DG race** (gossip), the launch of the **Health Works Leaders Coalition**, a rather **remarkable claim from Jean Kaseya** at the annual IMF/WB meetings, more on the UNAIDS 'sunsetting' commotion, updates on polio & malaria governance/financing, and much more.

Lancet Offline – “People have died”

R Horton; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)02151-8/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)02151-8/fulltext)

Horton's take on the **World Health Summit**. Well worth a read...

He also dwells on the **WHO DG race**. “Berlin was a ferment of gossip. **In particular, who would throw their hat into the ring to be the next WHO DG?** Hans Kluge, WHO's Regional Director for Europe, is a long-established front-runner. His colleague, Hanan Balkhy (Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean), is also favoured to stand. Brazil's President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is thought to be keen to propose a candidate. Indonesia's President Prabowo Subianto too. Some sources suggest that Jeremy Farrar, an Assistant Director-General in Geneva and formerly WHO's Chief Scientist, is a possible contender. His influence has grown substantially during the agency's recent radical downsizing. **One other individual occupying an important role in global health today is considering their position.** The timeline is expectantly close. A call for nominations in April/May, 2026, with a deadline of September/October. A longlist to be whittled down to three people and presented to WHO's Executive Board in January, 2027. A candidates' forum to allow member states to test the views of each applicant. Finally, a new DG will be anointed in May, 2027, and begin their first term in August. Election fever is running high. **Is the current DG a lame duck? Absolutely not. Tedros is now free of diplomatic constraints to say and do as he pleases. Perhaps it was that sense of freedom that encouraged him to be so candid about America's betrayal. With a little courage and a great deal of honesty, the next 18 months could be quite a ride for the agency....”**

WHO - Health Works Leaders Coalition launched to promote health system investments and spur economic growth, job creation

<https://www.who.int/news/item/17-10-2025-health-works-leaders-coalition-launched-to-promote-health-system-investments-and-spur-economic-growth-job-creation>

Press release from late last week.

“The World Bank Group, the Government of Japan, and the World Health Organization officially launched the [Health Works Leaders Coalition](#). This global alliance brings together health and finance ministers, philanthropic organizations, business leaders, leaders of global health agencies, and civil society representatives with the **aim of promoting investments in health systems as a strategy for economic growth, job creation, and improved resilience.**”

“The Leaders Coalition is central to [Health Works](#), a broader, global initiative led by the World Bank Group and partners to [help countries reach 1.5 billion people with quality, affordable health services by 2030](#).”

“The Coalition aims to mobilize domestic and international investments, catalyse reform, and align partners behind scalable, government-led priorities. The Coalition is not a funding mechanism, but rather a coordinated effort to drive bold, high-impact action on health reform globally. During the inaugural meeting, held during the World Bank Group Annual Meetings, it was announced that an initial group of 21 countries will develop National Health Compacts – government-led agreements that will lay out bold reforms, investment priorities, shared accountability and unlock resources for expanding access to quality, affordable health care....”

“... The first compacts, representing a range of income levels and geographic regions, are scheduled for formal launch at the [UHC High-Level Forum in Tokyo in December 2025](#). The Government of Japan also announced the first group of eight countries participating in the inaugural programme of the UHC Knowledge Hub in Tokyo – a new platform designed to support national policy-makers from developing countries through capacity-building and knowledge sharing....”

- Related coverage via [HPW – New Leaders’ Initiative Aims to Drive Investment in Health](#)

PS: “... Health Works is linked to three World Bank backed funds: the [Health System Transformation & Resilience Fund \(HSTRF\)](#), the [Global Financing Facility](#), which focuses on strengthening primary health care to reduce deaths of women, children, and adolescents, and [The Pandemic Fund](#), which provides financing for pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response.”

This HPW article also covers a **CGD hosted discussion on sustainable solutions to the health financing crisis, from last week**. Some key quotes:

PS: “According to World Bank vice-president [Mamta Murthi](#), countries need to spend \$50 to \$60 per person per year for a basic health package, but low-income countries (LIC) spend about \$20, and for many, around half of this comes from donors. Countries need to expand tax revenues and engage in domestic resource mobilisation, “including through better tax policy and better tax administration, and that includes health taxes”, Murthi told a **discussion hosted by the Center for Global Development (CGD) at which key development leaders discussed [sustainable solutions to the health financing crisis](#)....”** “ “The second thing that they can do is make health more of a priority in their budgets,” she said, adding that **around a third of low and low-middle-income countries could allocate more to health with the fiscal conditions that they have**. “And I don’t think they should just look at **health taxes**. There are lots of other things that they spend on, which don’t deliver a bang for the buck, and some of them are harmful to health. Let’s think of **fossil fuel subsidies**.” “ In addition, it is also “shocking that, **on average, about 10 to 15% of resources that are allocated for health spending don’t get spent**,” she added.” “ However, she said the Bank is **encouraged by countries presenting “compacts”**– country vision statements with “asks” to the donor community, setting out what they need from development agencies to reach their goals and targets....”

PS: “[Sania Nishtar](#), CEO of the vaccine alliance, Gavi, declared: “We are seeing the beginning of the end of overseas development aid (ODA).”....”

PS: While applauding the move towards health sovereignty, “...J-A Røttingen (Wellcome) cautioned that devolving too much to country governments might reinforce the priorities and norms of undemocratic governments that could be contrary to human rights. “There needs to be very strong transparency and the voice from civil society and different groups”, he noted, adding that positive lessons from different regions where things are working....”

Development Today - Nordics defend gender equality and reproductive rights, as UN embarks on downsizing

Ann Danaiya Usher; <https://www.development-today.com/archive/2025/dt-8--2025/nordics-defend-gender-equality-and-reproductive-rights-as-un-embarks-on-downsizing>

(gated) **“The UN Population Fund UNFPA and UN Women, two UN agencies where Nordics are top providers of core funding, have been singled out to be merged first as part of the UN80 reform process.** Following the UN Secretary General’s presentation of the sweeping UN reform plan this week in New York, Danish Ambassador Erik Laursen said **sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender equality must be protected..”** Civil society is clearly worried about the potential impact on SRHR due to the merger (via watered down mandates?). And not just civil society.

Reuters – Ending polio still possible, health officials say, as funding cut by 30%

[Reuters](#):

“Essential activities in key countries will continue. Lower-risk areas will face reductions in support. ... Wild polio remains in Afghanistan and Pakistan... Polio eradication has proved challenging”

“Eradicating polio is still possible despite significant funding cuts to the effort, global health officials said on Tuesday as they outlined how they will cope with the shortfall. The budget of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, a partnership including the World Health Organization and the Gates Foundation, will take a 30% cut in 2026 and has a \$1.7 billion funding gap up to 2029, the organisation says.....”

“... In response, the GPEI partners say they plan to focus more on surveillance and vaccination in areas where there is a high risk of polio transmission. The GPEI will also [collaborate more](#) with other global health programmes like measles campaigns, and use strategies like fractional dosing – where as little as a fifth of a vaccine dose is used to stretch out supplies and cut costs, as studies have shown this still protects children from infection. The partnership will reduce its work in lower-risk areas, unless there are outbreaks, as well as focusing on efficiencies.....”

- For more, see [Devex – Global polio coalition braces for 30% budget cut](#)

“Though polio funding levels have so far remained steady in the United States, several traditional donors — including the United Kingdom and Germany — are expected to make cuts.”

“The [Global Polio Eradication Initiative](#) plans to cut its budget for next year by 30% over what it originally planned in the wake of foreign aid cuts. After these cuts, next year’s budget now stands at \$786 million, down from \$1.1 billion this year. More broadly, there’s a \$1.7 billion funding gap for GPEI’s multiyear strategy from 2022 to 2029.....”

PS: re **America’s continued support:** “ The largest financial supporter of polio eradication is the Gates Foundation, followed by the U.S. and [Rotary International](#). While U.S. foreign aid cuts have shaken the global health sector this year, Mike McGovern, chair of the PolioPlus committee at Rotary International, said that at **this point, the appropriations committees of both the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate have proposed maintaining polio funding levels at \$265 million for next year.....”**

“... Dr. **Jamal Ahmed, director of polio eradication at WHO**, said that while the U.S. CDC was “out [of the polio discussions] for a few months at the beginning of the year, they have rejoined and are part and parcel of all our conversations at all levels.” Ahmed also noted that **GPEI is leaning on the “political, moral, and financial support” of Gulf Cooperation Council, or GCC, countries.**

Guardian - Anti-malaria funding cuts could lead to ‘deadliest resurgence ever’, study warns

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/oct/21/global-health-infectious-disease-aid-cuts-malaria-funding-cost-deaths-gdp-africa>

The African Leaders Malaria Alliance (Alma) co-commissioned the research with **Malaria No More UK**.

“Expected reduction in contributions by wealthy countries likely to cost millions of lives and billions in lost growth.” “Analysts said the **cost to sub-Saharan Africa would be substantial, and the region’s leaders have appealed to the G7 to maintain investment.** They **have also asked the private sector and high-net worth individuals to step in**, saying better control of the disease would fuel economic growth and trade.....”

“...The report estimated the impact of funding cuts to the **Global Fund to Fight Aids, TB and Malaria – which is seeking donations to cover costs from 2027 to 2029.** The fund provides nearly 60% of all international financing for malaria controls, such as mosquito nets and preventive drugs....”

- Link to the report: [The price of retreat](#).
- More [coverage and analysis via HPW – Malaria Resurgence Could Kill Nearly One Million by 2030 as Funding Cuts Hit](#)

A few excerpts:

“The head of the world’s largest malaria funder has issued a stark warning that the disease now poses a greater threat than HIV or tuberculosis, as a [new analysis](#) released Tuesday reveals funding cuts could trigger 990,000 additional deaths by 2030, including 750,000 children under five. **“If I think about the situation we face right now on HIV, TB and Malaria, the one that keeps me awake at night is malaria,”** Peter Sands, executive director of the **Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria,** told scientists and advocates at the World Health Summit in Berlin last week.....”

“... At a **pandemic preparedness meeting** during the summit focused on potential future disease threats, **Sands said he was struck by how much attention novel pathogens receive compared to malaria, which is killing hundreds of thousands each year.** “In many African countries, the **biggest health emergency right now is the upsurge in malaria,**” he said. “And you’ve got all these people wearing pandemic preparedness hats who are sort of worrying about Marburg and Ebola and all that stuff – which is fine, those are legitimate threats – none of them, if you take a country like DRC, are going to kill remotely as many people as malaria.””

“...The funding crisis runs [deep](#) across the global health world, but is particularly severe for malaria. Only \$4 billion was mobilized for malaria in 2023 against a needed \$8.3 billion, according to WHO [data](#)....”

“...As funding falters, new biological threats are emerging. Professor Isabella Oyier, head of the Biosciences Department at Kenya’s KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Program, is tracking **the spread of drug-resistant malaria parasites across East Africa** through genomic surveillance. **Climate change is further exacerbating these challenges by expanding the habitats of mosquitoes.** Historical data analysis published in [The Lancet Planetary Health](#) shows malaria mosquitoes in Africa have moved away from the equator by 4.7 kilometers per year over the past century and climbed 6.5 meters annually in altitude....”

“...The funding challenges are not just for existing tools. In view of the growing resistance to existing drugs, the urgency of developing next-generation treatments is even greater, Dr Martin Fitchet, CEO of Medicines for Malaria Venture, emphasised at a [plenary WHS session](#) on the issue. ... **MMV is now developing next-generation antimalarials** designed to overcome resistance and prevent another crisis in which the world is unprepared for new mutations in malaria parasites, including potential single-dose cures and long-acting injectable prevention that could protect children for an entire malaria season. **“The new drugs we discover now are five to eight years from the [arriving to] market,”** Fitchet explained. “These drugs have to have a high barrier of resistance, they have to be new mechanisms, brand new ways of working, the next generation after artemisinin.”....”

PS: **“... The rollout of malaria vaccines represents a genuine breakthrough.** By early 2025, 19 African countries had introduced WHO-recommended vaccines into routine childhood immunisation programs, reaching more than 3 million children, according to WHO data. **However, Sands expressed frustration that the vaccine breakthrough alone has failed to galvanise donors in the way other recent innovations have. The challenge, he explained, is that simply telling donors “we have the tools but need more money” no longer works as a fundraising message.** “The trouble is, the narrative that says actually we’ve got the tools but we need more money doesn’t really work, because donors don’t want to hear that,” Sands said. “We need to find ways of injecting something new or different or urgent or hopeful, particularly positive, hopeful stuff that changes the narrative.”

.... He also warned that vaccines will not be sufficient to reverse the surge in malaria cases because they primarily reduce mortality rather than stopping transmission of the disease.....”

PS: **“...MMV is establishing five manufacturing hubs across Africa in partnership with Africa CDC.** The organization is also making an AI-powered drug discovery tool available as open access to researchers globally....”

- Related: [Devex Opinion –A crisis in malaria treatment is coming — we must act faster to contain it](#) (by M Fitchet, CEO of the Medicines for Malaria Venture)

“Drug resistance in malaria already led to a spike in deaths in the early 2000s. Now history may repeat itself — but we have the experience to avert this crisis.”

Guardian - UNAids is set to close in 2026 – four years early. Are experts right to be alarmed?

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/oct/20/unaid-hiv-closing-2026-experts-right-to-be-alarmed>

“The move to shut the agency comes as aid budgets are being slashed, leading to fears that global progress on HIV may be reversed.”

“Angeli Achrekar, deputy executive director of the programme branch of UNAids, described the UN80 proposal – an initiative to transform how the UN works on its 80th birthday – as “a big shock”. It comes as the organisation is already undergoing significant restructuring to slash costs, halving the agency’s 600 staff to 300. She said UNAids has played a critical role this year in helping governments and civil society across the global south respond to the sudden removal of foreign aid, working to ensure that services continued, and monitoring the numbers of people being affected. “Abruptly sunseting UNAids is a nail in the coffin of the HIV response,” says Achrekar. “With funding cuts from the US and other major donors, the Aids response could spiral again.” ...”

“Researchers describe UNAids’ ability to collate high quality population-level data as being particularly useful in understanding the evolving nature of the epidemic, and something that would be hard to replace. Through UNAids, it’s clear that the African continent remains HIV’s centre with 67% of the 40.8 million people living with HIV. On a more granular basis, the organisation’s data has helped reveal that while the risk of getting HIV has fallen by 60% in sub-Saharan Africa since reaching a peak in 1995, rates of new infections remain persistently high among adolescent girls and young women. “Many governments and scientists across Africa use the UNAids data to understand where more efforts need to be put in place,” says Kenneth Ngunjiri, president-elect of the International Aids Society and an associate professor at the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Nairobi.”

“Without UNAids’ data and the comparisons generated between countries and regions, Nomathemba Chandiwana, a physician-scientist at the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation in South Africa, is concerned that it will become harder to push certain public health goals, such as elimination programmes for mother-to-child HIV. She also fears that getting rid of the agency will lead to governments increasingly grouping HIV alongside other competing priorities, which will have a detrimental effect on the ability to prevent new infections.....”

PS: **“.... According to Mitchell Warren, executive director of the Aids Vaccine Advocacy Coalition, the timing of the proposal comes with a cruel irony. In the past two years, numerous scientific advances have been made, including the development of long-acting injectable drugs such as lenacapavir that are capable of blocking viral transmission with near 100% effectiveness.... Ngunjiri says that while lenacapavir in particular has been an exciting development, its rollout will be hindered by the absence of data from UNAids pointing to where it is most needed, and pressing pharmaceutical companies to ensure that access to the drug is equitable across all high-risk populations. “Lenacapavir rollout will need to be guided by the status of the epidemic, with areas most badly affected by HIV being prioritised,” he says. “It will also need global advocacy for funding. Without UNAids, the rollout will be heavily dented.””**

HPW – With Future of UNAIDS in Question, Top Official Says ‘Very Difficult’ to Envision 2026 Shutdown

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/with-future-of-unaidis-in-question-top-official-says-very-difficult-to-envision-2026-shutdown/>

“A top UNAIDS official told delegates at the World Health Summit this week that it would be “very difficult” to envision shutting down the agency by the end of 2026, pushing back against a controversial proposal from UN Secretary-General António Guterres that has triggered an outcry from civil society groups and member states.....”

““I know the [Secretary-General’s] proposal is formulated in a way that strikes people as if it’s already a decision, but it is a proposal,” **Christine Stegling, deputy executive director of UNAIDS**, said at the summit. “There’s pressure on all of us to rethink ourselves and to think how we can maybe accelerate the timeline, but I personally find it very difficult to think about how we could do that by the end of 2026.” Her comments come weeks after Guterres released his UN80 reform plan in September, a sweeping 45-page blueprint for restructuring the UN system that included a single sentence stating: “We plan to sunset UNAIDS by the end of 2026.”....”

“... “We heard very powerful voices in our board meeting in June from communities telling us, look, sunseting can be good if you stand in a beautiful sunset,” Stegling said. “And it can be terrifying if you’re standing by yourself, and it just all of a sudden gets dark.””

“... Speaking about the abrupt US funding cuts, Stegling drew a parallel to the UN80 proposal: “It was the shock and it was the abruptness, and it was the unpreparedness that hit hardest, with little time to react.” **At an extraordinary UNAIDS board meeting last week, member states expressed strong opposition to the accelerated timeline.** “Member states on our board, and in particular those who are most affected, all speak about a similar issue,” Stegling said, specifically citing the Africa group. “They’re basically saying, look, the ecosystem is collapsing around us. The funding is collapsing around us, and at this particular time, you’re taking away a structure that we have at a country level that helps us to navigate these new realities, and so therefore we can’t support that.””

“... Germany and the Netherlands, the two largest contributors to HIV financing aside from the US, said their delegations would use the next meeting of the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board to question UN80’s abrupt departure from the agency’s existing reform trajectory.”

“... The UN proposal has generated fierce resistance from civil society organizations who sit on the UNAIDS Programme Coordinating Board – the only governance structure in the UN with direct civil society representation.....”

PS: “The exclusion of civil society from the UN80 process carries particular sting, given the history of the AIDS crisis. The move also reflects a broader trend across the UN system, where civil society access has been shrinking in both Geneva and New York. ... “

Guardian - Keir Starmer pressed not to slash UK contribution to global aid fund

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2025/oct/20/keir-starmer-uk-contribution-to-global-fund-aids-malaria>

“Polling finds majority consider £1bn funding for Aids, TB and malaria vaccines a UK success story.”

“Pressure is mounting on [Keir Starmer](#) not to cut the UK’s contribution to the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria after polling found 62% of Britons believe the government should maintain or increase its support. The prime minister must decide this year whether to maintain the UK contribution at £1bn or implement a cut in line with recent reductions to the aid budget. [A cut of 20% has been rumoured.....](#)”

“The dilemma is acute since the UK is co-chairing the fund’s replenishment summit, due to be held on 21 November in South Africa on the margins of the [G20](#) annual summit....”

“... The new polling was conducted by More in Common for the One Campaign, which said that if the UK matched the [£1bn contribution to the fund](#) made by Rishi Sunak three years ago, 1.7 million lives would be saved over the next three years. In the polling, voters were asked to cite two British achievements of the 21st century from a list of 10 possible choices. The Covid vaccine rollout was cited by 35%, hosting the Olympics by 24%, and helping to reduce Aids around the world by 21%, 2% more than those that cited the UK’s role in Ukraine..... [Adrian Lovett](#), UK executive director of The One Campaign, said: “People see the UK’s role in tackling these terrible diseases as one of our most significant achievements of the 21st century. The message is clear: British people want their government to save lives, and protect us from the spread of diseases that do not stop at national borders.””

Geneva Health Files - The Global Fund Briefing: The Impact of the Funding Cuts on the Fight Against AIDS, TB and Malaria

P Patnaik & B Carvalho; [Geneva Health Files](#);

“Peter Sands spoke last month (10 Sept) to reporters in Geneva, and today we share the full-length of his interaction with the press in the run up to the Fund’s eighth round of replenishment later this year.” A few excerpts & quotes:

Patnaik: **“....The relative importance of the Fund in the scheme of the overall architecture for global health will also likely increase.** The budgetary crisis at the WHO is eating the organization inside out. Another global health agency, Gavi - The Vaccine Alliance, is at the cusp of a transition with calls for greater efficiency and rationalization in its operations. Overall, global health mandates are straining not only financially, but also in the wider context of political disinformation fueling attacks on the immunization agenda and in fact, science itself....”

Sands: **“... The story is rather different across the three diseases. Another thing I would highlight is in 2024 the Global Fund had our biggest ever year in terms of investment. (The Global Fund is the biggest multilateral investor in health systems in low and middle income countries), We invested US \$ 2.7 billion in health systems. This is a very wide range of investments, whether it’s supply chain, laboratories, disease surveillance, oxygen provision, health workforce.....”**

Sands, **re the 2025 cuts**: “... On the impact of reductions in external international assistance for health, it has a very clear impact. On HIV, the impact has been most pronounced on the prevention side of the equation, because the numbers of people being put on antiretroviral treatment has continued to increase. On TB, the impact has been less marked than on HIV and malaria, because more of TB is domestically funded. However, in Africa, the fight against TB is particularly dependent on external sources, and there we have seen a reduction in the number of people being diagnosed and treated. On malaria, there has been a significant impact.....”

Sand also gave a “big picture view on reforms in global health” (**he prefers the term ‘ecosystem’ rather than ‘architecture’**, as he also said at the WHS in Berlin), on Lencapavir (how will the Global Fund and PEPFAR work together?), on making an investment case of the Fund with the U.S. (ps: the GF got a payment of \$1.3 billion in June, “and we continue to have very constructive discussions with the US about priorities in the direction of global health investments....”

Politico - Trump is cutting foreign aid. He’s not the only one.

<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/19/global-health-trump-rfk-who-tedros-00613700?s=09>

“Despite the Covid experience, nations aren’t proving more willing to help each other or to dig deep to help poor countries.” **A few excerpts:**

“... **The WHO is straining under the financial burden of the U.S. withdrawal**, which is expected to become official in January. It has cut its budget for the next two years by a fifth, halved the number of assistant directors-general and department directors and is letting go of some 600 employees at its headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, out of its 10,000 employees globally. It’s making additional staffing cuts in regional and country offices. **The cuts have led to discontent among some WHO employees in Geneva, who last month expressed no confidence in the downsizing. Tedros defended the layoffs in a press conference earlier this month, saying a committee on fairness and transparency was set up to address employee concerns and that the no-confidence vote didn’t reflect the “real feeling of our staff” because only 100 employees participated....”**

“**Two global health insiders in Washington** granted anonymity to discuss the WHO’s relationship with the Trump administration **candidly said they hadn’t seen evidence that the WHO was trying to convince Trump to stay in the organization.....”**

“**Tedros said he’s doing his best.** The WHO has asked for meetings with Trump administration officials, he said, “but for reasons they don’t tell us, it hasn’t happened yet.” **Tedros said he has worked for months with Kennedy to evacuate Palestinian children with cancer from the Gaza Strip** during the recently ended war there. He said he hoped to build on it. In addition, the **WHO has shared information with the U.S. about disease surveillance, flu vaccines and the WHO’s medicines-licensing process, the organization said in a statement.....”**

“... **The White House didn’t respond to a request for comment about whether it was still talking to the WHO.....”**

“**Larry Gostin said he tried to act as an intermediary between the WHO and Trump**, laying out a proposal for reforms the U.S. could ask of the WHO. In response, Gostin said the administration said it wanted the WHO led by an American director-general and inspector general. That was a

nonstarter, Gostin said, because it would violate the rules for selecting leaders established by WHO members.”

“Tedros has also had to navigate congressional politics in his outreach to U.S. officials....”
(including on a meeting with Bernie Sanders)

Ps: **“The new global health architecture that emerges must prominently address health security and be able to respond quickly and effectively to pandemics that might be around the corner, said Bärbel Kofler, Germany’s economic cooperation and development minister. “We need more donor countries, larger foundations and also private companies to be part of an international health financing system,” she said at the World Health Summit in Berlin earlier this month.....”**

PS: **“Georgetown’s Gostin said the new (US) GH strategy is likely to mean U.S. support is concentrated more on Latin America and Asia, and less on Africa.....”**

Devex – Africa CDC chief: 60% of foreign health aid was effectively wasted

[Devex:](#)

“African countries don't need more than 40% of the money they were receiving before, he said.”

“More value with less money: What if Africa’s health systems don’t actually need more aid — just smarter aid?... That’s the argument Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention Director-General Jean Kaseya made as he challenged the logic of a system that for decades poured billions into Africa’s health programs without always building government capacity or coordination to sustain them. “We don’t need more than 40% of [the] money we were receiving before,” Kaseya told Devex President and Editor-in-Chief Raj Kumar during a Devex Impact House event on the sidelines of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund annual meetings in Washington, D.C. He argued that what’s required now is efficiency, not more funding.....”

“Former Ethiopian Health Minister Lia Tadesse Gebremedhin agreed, saying that with fragmentation and duplication, sometimes inefficiencies could reach up to 80%. Both made the case that the sharp decline in foreign aid could be the wake-up call the continent needs....”

“Kaseya said the key to ensuring there is more value with less money now that foreign aid has sharply decreased is for countries to create integrated national health plans that outline how much health care programming costs and for donors to align under that plan. Those plans, he added, should be accompanied by strong national governance, the continental use of pooled procurement of health products to drive down costs, and the elimination of fraud.....”

PS: **“The U.S. government recently released its “America First” global health strategy — which emphasizes direct relationships with partner countries as opposed to the traditional way of working through implementing partners as intermediaries. This strategy speaks to what organizations such as Africa CDC have been asking for: Country ownership and exit plans where countries move away from aid dependency, Kaseya said. But there’s a need for more countries to have plans in place — currently only six African countries have strategic plans outlining the costs to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals within their borders, he said.....”**

Devex – As aid shrinks, top philanthropies test new ways to spur economic growth

<https://www.devex.com/news/as-aid-shrinks-top-philanthropies-test-new-ways-to-spur-economic-growth-111129>

“As old growth models falter, **the Gates Foundation and, more recently, Open Philanthropy are testing new ways to help low- and middle-income countries prosper.** They’re able to take risks, test ideas, and inform policy reforms that multilateral banks and bilateral donors often can’t.”

- Related **tweet Themrise Khan:** “White Billionaire donors just being replaced by White Billionaire philanthropists. Everyone wants to “low income countries to “prosper” but for their own gains. **Our countries are not your testing grounds. #philanthropy.**”

BMJ GH (Commentary) – Translating investments into results: the role of the World Bank in global health

K R Pandej, L von Seidlein et al ; <https://gh.bmj.com/content/10/10/e019078>

“Over the past few decades, the World Bank Group has emerged as an important stakeholder in global health, following decades of its investments in health systems around the world. **This commentary highlights that the recently concluded replenishment round of the World Bank Group’s International Development Association will mobilise approximately \$100 billion in some of the world’s poorest countries, offering significant opportunities to invest in health services and systems in these countries. This commentary calls for the World Bank Group to actively engage with the global health community in deciding how its investments in health services and systems are used to effectively translate these financial resources into improved health outcomes.**”

Flagging **three issues** in the process.

HP&P – Expanding budget space to improve health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries: what role for tax expenditures?

A ME Tagem, H Barroy et al; <https://academic.oup.com/heapol/advance-article/doi/10.1093/heapol/czaf079/8299819?searchresult=1>

“.... **This paper provides a first comprehensive analysis of the “health costs” of tax expenditures by analysing the relationship between tax expenditures and health outcomes, with a focus on under-five and maternal mortality.** Using data from 55 developing countries from 2000 to 2022, we find that an increase in tax expenditures leads to higher under-five and maternal mortality, especially in low-income countries. We also find that PFM, through the quality of public administration, transparency in the public sector, and the efficiency of revenue mobilization, mitigates the corrosive effects of tax expenditures. **A key implication of our findings is that understanding the “health costs” of tax expenditures is a necessary precursor to eliminating wasteful tax expenditures,** the benefits of which can contribute to expanding the budget space for health and improving health outcomes.”

Graduate Institute (Working paper) - The global governance of climate change and health: what does the literature say about its evolution, weaknesses and priorities for change?

Gomez-Mejia, Laura Isabel ; Greenup, Ava; Morich, Daniela & Moon, Suerie;
<https://repository.graduateinstitute.ch/record/321418?v=pdf>

“This literature review examines the evolving global governance of climate change and health (CC&H), focusing primarily on how health is being integrated into climate policy frameworks, the actors and institutions shaping this process, as well as the tools available to support this integration. The paper draws on a structured review of peer-reviewed and institutional publications....”

“... We begin by outlining the core institutions, actors, and policy spaces that influence global CC&H governance. **We found a notable increase in high-level political recognition of health within climate negotiations towards the late 2010s, particularly in the UNFCCC and WHA processes.** This **growing visibility**, however, is **not matched by structural integration or reciprocal representation** as health actors remain underrepresented in key climate negotiations, while environmental institutions are rarely present in global health spaces.....”

“We then synthesize key insights from the literature to **highlight four recurring themes** that inform current challenges and opportunities for strengthening global governance in this space with also four recommendations....”

More on Reimagining global health & development

Devex – Did the world get the development paradigm backward in 2015?

<https://www.devex.com/news/did-the-world-get-the-development-paradigm-backward-in-2015-111137>

“AFD’s Rémy Rioux, Rockefeller’s Julia Frifield, and DBSA’s Boitumelo Mosako discuss the **reimagining of development’s financial architecture** — and whether **2015**, a key year for development, could have set the world up in a more strategic way.....”

“We have [had] a problem for a decade, which is ... somehow we did it [in] the wrong order.” That was the **analysis from Rémy Rioux, head of French development agency AFD**, on a panel at Devex Impact House **during the World Bank-International Monetary Fund annual meetings** last week. Rioux, who has led AFD since 2016, reminded Devex Senior Reporter Michael Igoe that in July 2015, the **development world gathered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to set a financial framework before meeting at the United Nations General Assembly to set the Sustainable Development Goals and finally gathering for the 21st U.N. Climate Change Conference, or COP21, in Paris to forge the Paris Agreement....”**

“We should have done the other way around. We should have started with climate because, like it or not, **climate will remain the driver for a very long time**, then we should have declared the SDGs ... and then we should have gone to Addis to set the financial framework of that ambition and that

urgency.” ... The inversion, he said, has led to a decade of confusion, where development banks and agencies are deluged with different and sometimes contradictory objectives rather than a framework constructed in service of one overarching goal. “

“Despite development being in the “messy middle,” as Boitumelo Mosako — executive director of the South Africa-based Development Bank of Southern Africa — put it during the event, she said “what I’m seeing is actually the rise of public development banks.” She pointed out that such banks are “closer to the communities; we are the ones that actually understand the complexities, understand the needs of our government, and we are best positioned to actually continue to execute on the development mandate.””

In sum: “.... In Addis Ababa in 2015, global leaders were supposed to hammer out a new framework for financing global development. The problem? They didn’t really know yet what they were supposed to be financing. The U.N. Sustainable Development Goals hadn’t yet been adopted in New York. The Paris Climate Agreement was still several months away. In the end, the world never quite built a new architecture for financing its collective climate and development ambitions — and development finance stayed trapped in a paradigm from the 1990s, Rioux said.”

- See also Devex – [The global finance rethink behind the green transition](#)

“As climate shocks mount, leaders say financial reform must finally unite climate action and development goals.”

“At last week’s World Bank-International Monetary Fund [annual meetings](#), a recurring theme was clear: The international financial system is hindering low- and middle-income countries from pursuing the green economy.”

“Avinash Persaud, a key architect of the Bridgetown Initiative and special adviser on climate change to the president of the [Inter-American Development Bank](#), argues that the problem is rooted in our tendency to divide climate and development into separate areas. “You can’t really divide development into these different silos of climate or nature or jobs,” he said during a session at the [Devex Impact House](#). “When you’re trying to do development, you have to be conscious about climate shocks.” ...”

CEPS –A paradigm shift in global health and multilateral funding

C Lenz et al; <https://www.ceps.eu/ceps-publications/a-paradigm-shift-in-global-health-and-multilateral-funding/>

“...As traditional donors pull back, new players are emerging. Philanthropic foundations, private sector donors, and ‘Global South’ countries are all becoming more active. Reforms to the global health system are underway, with a greater focus on mobilising domestic resources. While some countries have increased domestic health spending, many face budget constraints, competing priorities and limited capacity. Regional and catalytic efforts are also emerging amidst these shifts. The global health landscape is undergoing a fundamental transformation. The challenge ahead is not focused on replacing lost funding but rather to reimagine and rebuild a more resilient, equitable and responsive global health architecture capable of meeting today’s complex realities and tomorrow’s evolving challenges.”

Lancet (Letter) - Loans dominated COVID-19 funding: it's time to adjust

J Sedky et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)01874-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)01874-4/fulltext)

“As the US foreign assistance architecture faces unprecedented dismantling, lessons from past crises take on urgent significance. Our new analysis of COVID-19 donor funding reveals a profound disconnect between the rhetoric of global solidarity and the reality: most official development assistance was issued as loans, and direct support to partner governments was minimal....”

“.... to our knowledge, our report—Tracking donor funding toward the global COVID-19 response—offers the most detailed quantitative picture of COVID-19 donor funding to date. Between 2020 and 2022, \$207·9 billion was pledged globally. Of this, \$170·9 billion was disbursed: \$148 billion (86·6%) by the World Bank, \$19·7 billion (11·5%) by donor governments, and \$3·2 billion (1·9%) by other multilaterals. For comparison, the total for all official development assistance during the same period amounted to \$885·5 billion. Although billions were pledged, 60% of COVID-19 funding took the form of loans; just 8·9% was partner government grants....”

See [Tracking Donor Funding Toward the Global COVID-19 Response: An Analysis of Pledges, Commitments and Disbursements](#).

More on global tax & debt justice

Devex - G20 recommits to debt relief — but critics say it's far from enough

https://www.devex.com/news/g20-recommits-to-debt-relief-but-critics-say-it-s-far-from-enough-111125?utm_source=bluesky&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=devex_social_icons

Must-read. **“The G20 has released a ministerial declaration on debt** reaffirming support for its existing debt restructuring program, **but critics say the framework's progress has been too slow.”**

Guardian op-ed - What the west can do to stop the global south being strangled by debt

Heather Stewart; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/oct/19/west-act-stop-global-south-strangled-by-debt>

Recommended. **“With borrowing costs rising and western governments including the UK cutting their aid budgets, unsustainable debts are driving a development crisis across the global south.”**

“In the latest evidence, Ethiopia last week faced the threat of being sued by its creditors in the English courts, after long-running negotiations about restructuring \$1bn (£740m) of its debt collapsed. In a number of other countries, including Zambia, Chad and South Sudan, private-sector lenders have strung out or disrupted efforts to restructure loans, with the process often taking years. New analysis published as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank met in Washington last week, by the advocacy group Development Finance International (DFI), shows the

scale of the burden. **It found that across the global south, debt servicing costs now soak up an extraordinary 45% of government revenues, or as much as 70% in low-income countries....**"

"With interest rates high, governments are now spending three times as much on servicing their debts as they are on education, and more than four times as much as on health...."

".... Campaigners and developing nations are demanding radical reform. With South Africa chairing the G20 this year, many had hoped to see progress. But while the group of leading nations acknowledged the scale of the problem in a ministerial declaration in Washington last week, it offered no concrete solutions. People with knowledge of the talks that led to the statement said a more ambitious proposal, to task the IMF with examining ways of giving more help to countries in crisis, was rejected by China...."

UN News – New forum builds on Sevilla pledges to tackle global debt crisis

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166152>

"A new UN-backed forum launched on Wednesday to help developing nations escape the weight of unsustainable debt – which has left more than three billion people worldwide living in economies forced to spend more on repayments than health or education. The Sevilla Forum on Debt will promote fairer lending, faster restructuring and long-term reform of the post-war financial system."

"Hosted by Spain and supported by the United Nations, the forum is designed to keep global attention on the debt crisis while converting firm commitments made at June's Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in Seville into concrete action. Governments, finance ministers and creditors from both developed and developing countries will band together for what the UN Secretary-General calls "a global dialogue on debt" – one that aims to deliver financial justice and ensure that borrowing works for, not against, developing economies...."

"“Developing countries spend \$1.4 trillion on annual debt service,” António Guterres said at the launch in Geneva. “And 3.4 billion people live in countries that spend more on servicing debt than on health or education. Countries should never have to choose between servicing their debt or serving their people.”"

Devex – African Center for Economic Transformation tries to humanize debt

<https://www.devex.com/news/african-center-for-economic-transformation-tries-to-humanize-debt-111145>

"ACET calculates how capping debt servicing costs would transform millions of lives."

"....the African Center for Economic Transformation, or ACET, is trying to humanize the numbers by calculating what they mean for a variety of indicators ranging from basic sanitation to education to maternal mortality. Its new report offers three scenarios that project what the impact would be on those indicators if debt servicing costs were capped at 5%, 10%, and 14% of government revenue...."

Tax Justice Net - Global experts call for just taxation to fund climate action

<https://taxjustice.net/press/global-experts-call-for-just-taxation-to-fund-climate-action/>

Conference in Brazil sets out six global tax actions to deliver climate and economic justice

“At the **A Climate for Change: Towards Just Taxation for Climate Finance** conference held on **13–14 October 2025** at the Universidade Estadual de Campinas (UNICAMP) in Brazil, economists, feminist organisers, union leaders, social movements, and tax justice advocates **called on governments to make just taxation the foundation of climate finance.....**”

Project Syndicate - The Global Majority's Fight for Economic Justice

S Phamoedi; <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/peoples-summit-for-global-economic-justice-at-g20-meeting-south-africa-by-sekoetlane-phamodi-2025-10>

“Amid a series of cascading crises, **civil-society groups and NGOs from across the Global South will meet with their Global North allies on the sidelines of the upcoming G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg**. The aim is to develop a locally rooted but globally connected program of action for achieving economic justice.”

Excerpts: “... **The decisions and actions taken in the interest of global capital have expanded the ranks of so-called “surplus people.”** These populations on the margins include workers made redundant by multiple and convergent socio-technical shifts, communities displaced by mine closures and climate shocks, and households pushed into poverty by soaring food and energy prices.... “

“So, what can be done? To answer this question, **civil-society groups and NGOs from across the Global South will meet with our Global North allies at the People's Summit for Global Economic Justice on the sidelines of the upcoming G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg**. In keeping with the meeting's theme – “We, the 99%” – the attendees will work together to map structural alternatives to the “**societies of enmity**” produced by capitalism. **The goal is to develop a locally rooted but globally connected program of action for achieving economic justice.**”

“Chief among the proposed solutions to be deliberated at the People's Summit is a **wealth tax on ultra-rich individuals and companies under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.....**”

CPHIA Durban (22-25 October)

<https://cphia2025.com/>

Themed: “**Moving towards self-reliance to achieve universal health coverage and health security in Africa.**”

HPW – Africa Seeks More Self-Reliance Amid Disease Outbreaks and Decline in Donor Funds

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/africa-seeks-more-self-reliance-as-it-battles-disease-outbreaks/>

Jean Kaseya briefed media at the start of the Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) 2025, which Africa CDC is co-hosting.

“Is Africa ready for another big pandemic? The answer is a resounding “No”, said Dr Jean Kaseya, Director-General of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). Kaseya blames this worrying state of affairs on the absence of national public health institutes in some countries, data management difficulties, a lack of laboratories, shortcomings in surveillance and coordination, and the recent sharp decline in donor funding. Briefing media at the start of the Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) 2025, which Africa CDC is co-hosting, Kaseya said **there had been more outbreaks of disease in Africa in the first semester of this year than in the whole of last year.”**

The article then continues with **coverage of the opening day of the conference**. With quotes from Jean Kaseya, Sania Nishtar, Joe Phaahla (Deputy MoH South-Africa), and many others.

“In his opening address to the conference on Wednesday evening, Kaseya said African countries need to assume greater sovereignty over their healthcare to secure the well-being of their people. The **theme of the conference** is “Moving Towards Self-Reliance to Achieve Universal Health Coverage and Health Security in Africa”, and **sustainable financing and local manufacturing** were recurring subjects on the opening day. Kaseya quoted Rwandan President Paul Kagame as saying that the work to build the continent, including health, cannot be outsourced. **Africa CDC will deploy 10 public finance experts to 10 countries in November to bridge the gap between the ministries of health and finance.** This initiative must be **allied to efforts to strengthen governance**, to see that money goes where it is intended, while donors and other partners must align their visions of the countries they support, said Kaseya.....”

“Kaseya told guests there would be a strong emphasis on science at the conference, which included 113 speakers and 94 abstract presenters, representing 35 countries. “We want to see how science can lead the decision-making process,” he said, adding that the aim would be to take conference recommendations to the G20 Health Ministers’ meeting in early November under South Africa’s G20 Presidency.”

PS: **“The South African government and AfricaBio are co-organisers of the conference, which closes on Saturday....”**

- See also **Africa CDC - [Charting a pathway toward self-reliance: 4th International Conference on Public Health in Africa \(CPHIA\) Opens in Durban, South Africa](https://healthpolicy-watch.news/africa-seeks-more-self-reliance-as-it-battles-disease-outbreaks/)**

HPW - Top African Pharma Executive Bluntly Lists Barriers to Local Manufacturing

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/top-african-pharma-executive-bluntly-lists-barriers-to-local-manufacturing/>

“A top executive at Africa’s biggest drug company shared a few home truths with the continent’s health policymakers about the obstacles to local manufacturing at the Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA) 2025. Aspen Pharmacare’s Dr Stavros Nicolaou blamed **regulatory bottlenecks and procurement policies for the failure of drug manufacturers on the continent to realise their potential....”**

“Nicolaou called for a shift in multilateral procurement, including by Gavi, UNICEF and the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria. He told delegates that the **establishment last year of the African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA) was “a start”, but that the accelerator is “not fit for purpose” in its present form. AVMA is a financing mechanism set up to raise \$1.2 billion for manufacturers over 10 years. Nicolaou told Health Policy Watch that this amount – earmarked for “fill-and-finish” drug manufacturers – was rather modest. ...”**

“... Nicolaou noted that more than four years had passed and “nothing” had happened since the African Union and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) announced their ambition to ensure the continent manufactures 60% of its vaccine needs by 2040. ...”

“... Nicolaou said he was disappointed that Africa had the highest disease burden yet remained a serial importer and “every year the trade deficit in pharmaceuticals grows””

Africa CDC - National Public Health Institutes in Africa: Development Framework 2.0

<https://africacdc.org/download/national-public-health-institutes-in-africa-development-framework-2-0/>

“Unveiled during the Pre-Meeting of National Public Health Institutes ([#NPHIs](#)) at [#CPHIA2025](#) in Durban ZA, the Framework provides updated guidance to help [AfricanUnion](#) Member States strengthen and sustain National Public Health Institutes as Centres of Excellence for public health across Africa.”

“... In its first edition of the Framework for the Development of NPHIs in Africa, Africa CDC has outlined the core functions, operational models, and legal mandates necessary for NPHIs to thrive. This edition provides detailed guidance on essential components such as infrastructure, human resources, equipment, logistics, governance, and monitoring and evaluation (M&E). These elements are crucial for the successful establishment and sustainable operation of NPHIs, which are envisioned as Centres of Excellence for public health in Africa. This document, now enriched with additional insights into the characteristics of NPHI Centers of Excellence, intended to serve as a strategic resource for Member States....”

- Link – News Ghana: **[CPHIA 2025 to spotlight digital innovation as Africa pushes for health self-reliance](#)**

UHC & PHC

Montreux Collaborative Blog - Breaking the silos: a new conceptual framework to unite public financial management, health financing, and supply chain management

K Klemperer, P Baker et al; <https://www.pfm4health.net/blog/breaking-the-silos-a-new-conceptual-framework-to-unite-public-financial-management-health-financing-and-supply-chain-management->

“Recent aid cuts—including to the [US Global Health Supply Chain project which provided \\$1.15 billion to 73 countries](#)—have forced low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to rapidly scale up domestic financing of supply chains. This is, however, challenging. Too often, domestic financing is slow, unpredictable, fragmented, inflexible, donor-dependent and inefficient.”

“However, optimising the domestic financing of supply chains is a neglected policy area – partly due to the silos in which public financial management (PFM), health financing, and supply chain experts operate. In response, earlier this year CGD joined forces with the Africa Resource Centre to bring together experts and policymakers from across these fields under the remit of a new [working group on improving the financing of supply chains](#). To underpin the policy solutions of the working group, we have published a [novel conceptual framework](#) on which we are seeking feedback. By integrating the PFM, health financing, and supply chain fields, we hope this framework inspires a new community of practice, better national policies and global guidance, and ultimately improves access to essential commodities.....”

Check out the **framework of 10 key functions categorised into four phases.**

PPPR

TWN – WHO: Resource Persons Stress Need for Accountability in Pathogen Access & Benefit Sharing System (PABS)

N Ramakrishnan; <https://www.twn.my/title2/health.info/2025/hi251002.htm>

“Exchanges with resource persons convened by the WHO to inform the Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) negotiations on the Pathogen Access and Benefit-Sharing (PABS) System underscored the need for mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability within the new framework. ... The exchanges with the resource persons were organised as a part of a week-long informal IGWG meeting on 6-10 October. ...”

“There were 5 sessions of 1 hour 50 minutes each, where delegations interacted with the resource persons working in areas of relevance to the PABS System. These sessions were open to all relevant stakeholders. They covered the following: Public health events and risk assessments; PABS materials and laboratory networks; PABS Sequence Information and Databases; Development

and Manufacturing of Vaccines, Therapeutics and Diagnostics (VTDs); Other ABS instruments and mechanisms.....”

“... Across the different sessions, resource persons highlighted both responsible sharing of PABS resources and the effective implementation of fair and equitable benefit-sharing obligations. ...”

Pandemic: Preparedness Not Project, But Culture — Prof. Ihekweazu

<https://thewhistler.ng/pandemic-preparedness-not-project-but-culture-prof-ihekweazu/>

“Prof. Chikwe Ihekweazu, Executive Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Health Emergencies Programme, says preparedness for health emergencies must be treated as a culture, not a project.... Reflecting on his time as NCDC Director-General, Ihekweazu said that preparedness was not a one-off intervention but a shared culture built through consistency, collaboration, and community engagement. “During my time leading the NCDC, I learned that preparedness is not a project, it is a culture. It grows from consistent partnerships and daily practice,” he said....”

AMR

Science News - ‘I fear we are sitting on a time bomb.’ Scientists debate mass distribution of antibiotics in Africa

<https://www.science.org/content/article/i-fear-we-are-sitting-time-bomb-scientists-debate-mass-distribution-antibiotics-africa>

“Prophylactic use of azithromycin saves vulnerable children’s lives, but could trigger antibiotic resistance.” Related to the new NEJM study from last week.

Excerpt: “.... The new study adds fuel to a long-standing debate about so-called mass drug administration (MDA) with azithromycin. On one side are those who want to seize every opportunity to save the lives of some of the world’s most vulnerable children. The other side fears resistance caused by widespread antibiotic use could affect the same communities, and even the same children, a few years down the road....”

““It is very difficult to say that antimicrobial resistance is worse than child mortality,” says Iruka Okeke, a microbiologist who studies antibiotic resistance at the University of Ibadan. But if azithromycin MDAs are widely adopted, “I fear we are sitting on a time bomb,” she says. It’s a moral dilemma, says Kevin Outterson, an expert on the economics of drug resistance at Boston University: “There are also those who say, ‘There are lives being saved now. The house is on fire, kids are dying. Why are we hesitating?’””

“Several West African countries are pushing forward. Nigeria, Mali, and Niger have all launched large-scale MDA programs, together slated to treat close to 17 million children this year. Burkina Faso announced earlier this month it will roll out a countrywide program in 2026. The programs are supported by a consortium named REACH, funded by the Gates Foundation, which has

coordinated studies of different MDA approaches in seven West African countries and is supporting the wider rollouts.....”

PS: **“Okeke says the focus should be on improving African children’s health in other ways.**

“Children are not dying because they’re not getting azithromycin. They’re dying because they’re not getting other things—food, clean water, basic health care, vaccines,” Okeke says. When countries resort to mass drug administration, she says. **“It can be a sign that we’re giving up.””**

Health Emergencies

WHO - Last Ebola patient in Democratic Republic of the Congo discharged

<https://www.afro.who.int/news/last-ebola-patient-democratic-republic-congo-discharged>

“The last Ebola patient in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was discharged today, marking an important milestone in the efforts to end the outbreak. The recovery kicks off a 42-day countdown to declaring the outbreak over if no further cases are confirmed.....”

“A total of 19 patients have recovered from the disease. No new cases have been reported since 25 September. In total, 64 cases (53 confirmed and 11 probable) have been reported since the outbreak was declared on 4 September in Bulape health zone, in Kasai Province.....”

- See also [Cidrap News](#) : **35,000 vaccinated in 6 weeks**

“The Bulape health zone is a rural, hard-to-reach area with uneven roads. Still, the WHO said, the WHO, the DRC ministry of health, and multiple partners were able to erect a 32-bed Ebola treatment center within days of identifying the first case. In addition to building the treatment center, healthcare workers immediately organized a vaccination campaign that ultimately reached 35,000 in Bulape health zone. Vaccines arrived just 10 days after the initial case was identified, and outbreak workers used a ring vaccination strategy to reach close contacts, clinicians, and others at risk of infection.”

BMJ Opinion - Defunding mRNA vaccine research leaves us all more vulnerable to future health emergencies

<https://www.bmj.com/content/391/bmj.r2183>

“Multilateral initiatives are needed to signal confidence and fill funding gaps in mRNA research, writes Jennifer B Nuzzo.”

“... National governments must fill the gap created by the United State’s sudden funding cut for mRNA research. A coordinated multilateral commitment to fund mRNA vaccine research would help facilitate innovation and send an important signal of confidence in vaccines using this technology. National governments should work through the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Initiative (CEPI) to fill the immediate gap in funding for mRNA respiratory vaccines created by the US cancellations. But countries need to do more than just restore funding to ensure the continuation of mRNA research. They need to make clear public statements about the critical

value of mRNA vaccine technology and the safety and efficacy of existing mRNA vaccines. Such efforts would help to **counter the dangerous narrative** coming from Kennedy about mRNA vaccines that stands to thwart their development and uptake.....”

- And a link: WHO - [WHO launches new country guidance for health emergency coordination](#)

Trump 2.0

The Global Observatory - From Reform to Retreat: How the US Is Rewriting Multilateralism

J Ryan; <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2025/10/from-reform-to-retreat-how-the-us-is-rewriting-multilateralism/>

« The strategy is clear: defund the UN until it falters, then cite its dysfunction as proof that multilateralism itself has failed. »

« **Delegitimizing Multilateralism :** ...The **new model reduces multilateralism to utility: the UN is useful only insofar as it delivers immediate returns on American investment.** The record is instructive. Under Trump, the United States withdrew from the World Health Organization, the Paris Agreement, UNESCO, and the UN Human Rights Council—each time citing sovereignty or inefficiency. None of these exits included plans for constructive reform or alternative engagement. **This pattern differs from earlier moments of unilateral action.** When the United States bypassed the Security Council to invade Iraq in 2003, it claimed exceptionalism but did not question the legitimacy of the UN itself. **Today’s retreat goes further: it challenges not just specific decisions but the premise that multilateral institutions deserve deference or resources....”**

CGD Note - PEPFAR's Missing Data: Why Transparency Matters More Than Ever

R Godbole; <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/pepfars-missing-data-why-transparency-matters-more-ever>

“Ramona Godbole’s note makes clear the **extent of an ongoing crisis of accountability in US foreign assistance.** Eighty-three percent of Americans support using foreign assistance to deliver medicine and medical supplies to those who need them. The Trump administration has promised to preserve this lifesaving assistance. But since the start of the year, there has been no way to confirm if assistance is still reaching those who need it. **For the two flagship US global health programs, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the President’s Malaria Initiative, monitoring dashboards remain dark.** As Godbole notes, **tracking is vital, especially in a period of upheaval and proposed reform of how assistance and services are delivered.** It is past time for a return to transparency. “

“October 3rd marked another missed deadline for public release of the **President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief’s (PEPFAR) quarterly monitoring data.** If you’re not following it as closely as we are: **PEPFAR has not released any new data since 2024,** and since mid-August, the program's public-facing data release schedule has shifted all dates to "TBD.".... **We remained hopeful that PEPFAR**

will release a subset of high-level data for World AIDS Day on December 1st. However, as of last week, that release date has now also shifted to "TBD," leaving no scheduled data release at any level of detail. Without new FY2025 data, researchers, advocates, policymakers, donors, and partner countries will remain in the dark about the program's current status during a critical time of transition.....”

Geneva Health Files - The Story of the Unfolding HIV Crises As Seen in Three Countries: Uganda, Thailand and Malawi [Ground report]

Andrew Green; <https://genevahealthfiles.substack.com/p/the-story-of-the-unfolding-hiv-crises-three-countries-uganda-thailand-malawi-andrew-green>

“In this story, Andrew Green draws an arc of the impact of the aid cuts as seen in three countries of Uganda, Thailand and Malawi, undertaken during his reporting journeys for much of this year. ... Their stories reveal just how precarious the HIV response has become, particularly for the most vulnerable.....”

“....People now fear they are being abandoned. They no longer trust any commitments from the United States and have little faith their own governments can fill the gap left by the cut to the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. They are rallying their own resources. We know that this will not be enough to stave off a surge in new infections and deaths.....”

“... Across sub-Saharan Africa, outreach workers—often drawn from the communities they support—have been integral to sustaining the HIV response. It is a service many countries relied on PEPFAR to support. Now their ranks have been decimated.....”

NEJM and public health group are launching rival to CDC’s MMWR publication

<https://www.statnews.com/2025/10/21/cdc-mmwr-alternative-new-report-announced-by-nejm-cidrap/>

“After 73 years, many public health experts are losing trust in the ‘voice of the CDC’.”

“In the latest bid to plug gaps in the federal government’s public health infrastructure, **two institutions are coming together to create an alternative to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s vaunted Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report — often called “the voice of the CDC.” **The New England Journal of Medicine and the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy will begin publishing “public health alerts” in the coming month**, CIDRAP Director Michael Osterholm announced at the IDWeek conference on Sunday.”**

Harvard - U.S. funding cuts could result in nearly 9 million child tuberculosis cases, 1.5 million child deaths

[Harvard;](#)

“A new study projects that U.S. funding cuts to global health aid will have a catastrophic effect on pediatric TB, with children in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia likely to experience a

significant spike in preventable cases and deaths over the next decade—even by the most conservative estimates—unless funding is restored.....”

- See [the Lancet Child & Adolescent Health: Potential paediatric tuberculosis incidence and deaths resulting from interruption in programmes supported by international health aid, 2025–34: a mathematical modelling study](#)

Foreign Policy - Foreign Aid Groups Grapple With How to Engage Trump

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2025/10/21/foreign-aid-groups-trump-usaid-cuts-engagement/>

“After drastic cuts, some aid workers are advocating a more pragmatic approach to dealing with Trump 2.0.” A few quotes:

“...Against this backdrop, some **speakers at the InterAction conference** urged attendees to pursue a pragmatic approach when dealing with the Trump administration. This **includes seriously considering long-standing conservative arguments that U.S. policy toward international development has encouraged a culture of aid dependency in some developing countries.....”**

“... the former Biden USAID official said that they hoped pragmatism would win the day and that development professionals would be able to find common cause where possible with the Trump administration. **“I would look for areas of convergence in Gaza or Syria, clearly in areas where the administration has priorities ... competing with China or finding ways to strengthen supply chains for critical minerals, all of that is development work.””**

NYT - America’s Retreat From Aid Is Devastating Somalia’s Health System

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/17/health/somalia-children-malnutrition-usaid.html>

“Hunger and the diseases that stalk small children have surged in Somalia after the U.S. slashed its aid to the country.”

Lancet World Report - In Timor-Leste, even modest cuts in US foreign aid add up

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)02115-4/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)02115-4/fulltext)

“Cuts to international aid are risking the development of Asia's youngest democracy. Ted Alcorn reports from Dili.”

Devex - US aid cuts, in real time

<https://www.devex.com/news/devex-newswire-will-the-world-bank-s-accountability-structure-overhaul-weaken-it-111144>

Re **Devex’s new flagship project** to illustrate the magnitude of cuts to U.S. aid.

“U.S. international aid cuts were announced months ago, but their effects are still rippling through systems, upending programs, projects, and lives around the world. Yet no single source exists to track these impacts as they unfold in real time. That’s **the gap The Aid Report is built to fill**. We’re launching our most ambitious journalism initiative yet: **A news site that will capture how the U.S. aid cuts are playing out on the ground — with medical supply chains, nutrition programs, and lives at stake**. All in one place, we’ll share verified reports from the field, combined with original Devex reporting and aggregated stories from outside sources. Think of it as a live database of what’s actually happening as billions in funding disappear.....” “This work is made possible **through a media grant from the Gates Foundation**.”

Guardian – Thailand sets global precedent by allowing refugees to work

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2025/oct/22/thailand-to-let-myanmar-refugees-work-aid-cuts-labour-shortages>

“An **attempt to counter aid cuts and labour shortages**, the move will allow thousands of people living in camps to support themselves and their families.”

World Menopause Day & other SRHR (& child/adolescent) news

Global Leaders Launch Declaration on Menopause Calling World Health Organization and National Governments to Develop First-Ever Policies and Guidance to Support Menopausal Women

[PR Newswire](#);

“**1.2 billion women expected to be menopausal or post-menopausal by 2030 and despite being a universal experience, menopause remains systematically overlooked.**”

“On World Menopause Day, a coalition of leading health and development experts and women's health advocates launched the [Power in Menopause Declaration](#), a **first-of-its-kind global advocacy campaign** urging the World Health Organization (WHO), national governments, and corporations to prioritize menopause and establish new policies to support women and health workers. **Twenty leaders across industries and countries are championing the initiative, with more expected to sign the global declaration.....**”

“.... **By 2030, 1.2 billion women around the world will be menopausal or post-menopausal**, with four in five experiencing symptoms that can disrupt their health, relationships, and careers. Yet **for too long, menopause has been systematically overlooked, under-researched, and underfunded**. Every year, debilitating menopause symptoms rob women of 2.4 million years of healthy life. Despite this, most health professionals receive little formal training on menopause, proven treatments remain under-prescribed or inaccessible in most parts of the world, and few countries have existing menopause policies. The result: millions of menopausal women suffer in silence due to a systemic lack of information, misdiagnosis, or stigma.....”

“... **The Power in Menopause campaign** is a global movement calling on the WHO, national governments, and corporations to **establish comprehensive menopause policies, clinical guidance, and workplace initiatives**, to better support the billions of women who will experience menopause.....”

Guardian – Millions exploited by ‘menopause gold rush’ amid lack of reliable information, say experts

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/oct/20/millions-exploited-by-menopause-gold-rush-amid-lack-of-reliable-information-say-experts>

“Women’s health academics at UCL call for education programme to combat misinformation and unregulated advice.” (focus on the UK in this article, but with broader implications)

“Millions of women are being exploited by a **“menopause gold rush”** as **companies, celebrities and influencers take advantage of a “dearth” of reliable information on the issue**, experts have said. Healthcare companies and content creators saw menopause as a “lucrative market” and were trying to profit from gaps in public knowledge, **women’s health academics at UCL** said. Researchers called for the rollout of a national education programme after finding a significant number of women do not feel well-informed about menopause....

“Writing in **medical journal Post Reproductive Health**, they said: “There has been a rapid expansion in unregulated private companies and individuals providing menopause information and support for profit; this has been termed the ‘menopause gold rush’”

PMNCH - Snap survey conducted by PMNCH reveals global funding crisis threatening health and rights programs for women, children, and adolescents.

[PMNCH:](#)

“ A new global survey by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health (PMNCH) has revealed alarming funding disruptions facing organizations working to protect and promote the health and rights of women, children, and adolescents worldwide. “This is not just a financial crisis—it’s a human one,” said Rajat Khosla, Executive Director at PMNCH. “As funding dries up, frontline organizations are being forced to scale back or suspend services that millions of women and children depend on. The world cannot afford to lose this momentum.””

“The Survey based on responses from partner organizations in over 20 countries across Africa, Latin America, and South-East Asia, highlights a cascading impact of global disruptions - from reduced donor support to geopolitical instability and misinformation - that is undermining the delivery of women’s, children’s, and adolescents’ health (WCAH) services.....”

“Key findings include: - 89% of partners faced reduced or uncertain funding in the past year. - 81% report moderate to severe impacts on advancing WCAH goals. - 62% downsized their programs, 37% temporarily suspended activities, and 19% permanently closed initiatives. - 79% cite flexible, core funding as the top need to navigate global uncertainty.....”

NCDs & Commercial determinants of health

WHO - Tobacco industry targets WHO FCTC COP and MOP negotiations, Parties urged to stay vigilant

<https://fctc.who.int/newsroom/news/item/22-10-2025-tobacco-industry-targets-who-fctc-cop-and-mop-negotiations-parties-urged-to-stay-vigilant>

“The Secretariat of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC) is alerting governments and the public that the tobacco industry is intensifying efforts to interfere with the work of the Conference of the Parties (COP), the treaty’s decision-making body, to weaken global tobacco control measures. “

“The WHO FCTC is the first treaty negotiated under the auspices of WHO and one of the most widely and rapidly embraced United Nations treaties in history. A total of 183 Parties have joined the Convention, which entered into force 20 years ago. **The Eleventh session of the COP, which will be held from 17-22 November in Geneva, Switzerland,** will bring together Parties to the Convention to take the decisions necessary to work towards achieving the objectives of the WHO FCTC, including the discussion of measures to prevent nicotine addiction, and for the protection of the environment and human health, among others.”

Lancet (Comment) - Lessons from CONCORD and VENUSCANCER: closing global gaps in cancer care for women

Benjamin O Anderson et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)01580-6/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)01580-6/abstract)

Comment related to a new Lancet study.

“International outcomes in breast, cervical, and ovarian cancers highlight opportunities to improve health-care delivery for women at all economic levels. In high-income countries (HICs), early detection programmes, timely diagnosis, and access to cancer treatment to completion have led to considerable improvements in cancer survival. **These successes, however, are yet to be realised in most low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs).”**

“...The internationally respected CONCORD programme established a global surveillance network to monitor national trends in cancer survival. Claudia Allemani and colleagues now extend this work to expand our understanding of cancer care delivery for women worldwide. **In The Lancet, the VENUSCANCER project provides an in-depth analysis of the diagnosis and management of the three most common malignancies that primarily or exclusively affect women: breast, cervix, and ovary. ...”**

Authors conclude: **“WHO's Global Breast Cancer Initiative and Cervical Cancer Elimination Initiative, The Lancet Breast Cancer Commission, and The Lancet's Commission on women, power, and cancer are all informed by the results from the VENUSCANCER project,** which provides the most comprehensive population-based assessment to date of how cancers of the breast, cervix, and ovary are diagnosed and treated worldwide. Beyond serving as a benchmark, the VENUSCANCER study highlights where important gaps remain, whether in early diagnosis, treatment

access, or continuity of care, allowing policy makers to prioritise interventions that have the greatest impact on survival. Although current data cannot fully capture cancer treatment to completion at the population level, VENUSCANCER data provide important insights into the consistency of cancer management and alignment with international clinical guidelines. **Linking the findings of the VENUSCANCER study to national strategies for cancer control could accelerate the adoption of evidence-based practices, guide resource allocation, and support context-specific innovations in the delivery of cancer care. Ongoing monitoring through the VENUSCANCER project promises to be an invaluable tool as countries systematically improve the delivery of cancer care for women.**

NTDs

WHO - Global progress against neglected tropical diseases continues despite challenges, new WHO report finds

<https://www.who.int/news/item/22-10-2025-global-progress-against-neglected-tropical-diseases-continues-despite-challenges--new-who-report-finds>

(22 Oct) “The World Health Organization (WHO) today released the *Global report on neglected tropical diseases 2025*, the third in a series monitoring progress towards the 2030 targets set in the *Road map for neglected tropical diseases 2021–2030*. The report presents a comprehensive picture of global achievements and challenges across the portfolio of neglected tropical disease (NTDs) and across all six WHO regions.....”

Run-up to COP30 in Brazil

Including a number of reports and other updates, ahead of the COP 30 meeting in Belem, Brazil (November).

ODI Global – Hot take on all things climate

<https://odi.org/en/insights/hot-take-september-2025/>

“For this edition, **we take a look at the upcoming COP30 in Belém** and unpack how countries could pursue dual development and climate objectives in these difficult and strange times.”

Devex - Progress on loss and damage fund shows climate is a global priority

<https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-progress-on-loss-and-damage-fund-shows-climate-is-global-priority-110288>

“The **Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage** will **allocate \$250 million in grants** to support projects in vulnerable developing countries that have suffered from climate-related loss and damage. Grants will range from \$5 million to \$20 million per intervention, with applications opening on Dec. 1 for a six-month window. The call for funding requests — dubbed the **Barbados Implementation Modalities, or BIM** — will focus on country-led, bottom-up approaches to ensure

resources reach communities most affected by climate impacts.”

“The announcement **marks the operationalization of the fund**, which has been in the wings of climate action since it was **initially launched at the 27th United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP27, in 2022**. While the fund had made some key decisions in the past, such as appointing its executive director, **this move is the first indication of how the fund will take action in developing countries moving forward.....**”

Carbon Brief – Revealed: Only a third of national climate pledges support ‘transition away from fossil fuels’

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/revealed-only-a-third-of-national-climate-pledges-support-transition-away-from-fossil-fuels/>

“Only around a third of the latest country climate pledges submitted to the UN express support for the “transition away from fossil fuels”, according to Carbon Brief analysis.”

“Several countries even have used their 2035 climate plans to commit to increasing the production or use of fossil fuels, predominately gas, the analysis finds.”

- See also [Climate Change news - Countries must confront fossil fuels head-on in their NDCs](#)

“Other nations should follow the **rare example set by Colombia and Vanuatu**, whose climate plans contain explicit goals for cutting back on oil, gas and coal.”

“As **governments submit their updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) ahead of COP30**, almost all of them share one glaring omission. While the climate plans speak of expanding renewables or boosting efficiency, **almost none directly confront the other side of the equation – the production and use of fossil fuels.....**”

Devex – 45 climate goals, 0 on track: The Earth’s failing report card

<https://www.devex.com/news/45-climate-goals-0-on-track-the-earth-s-failing-report-card-111101>

“As global leaders head to Brazil, **new reports reveal backsliding on climate action, rising fossil fuel finance, and stalled progress on key emissions targets.**”

“...There are **areas of significant progress and an indication that the renewable economy is moving forward with or without the United States**, but a **report published Wednesday by the World Resources Institute** found backsliding on global climate action and electric vehicle uptake; no movement on phasing out coal, halting deforestation, and reducing agriculture emissions; and an increase in public finance for fossil fuels. **Overall, the report found that out of 45 indicators used to measure climate action, not a single one is on track.....**”

Guardian – Global use of coal hit record high in 2024

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2025/oct/22/global-use-of-coal-hit-record-high-in-2024>

“Bleak report finds greenhouse gas emissions are still rising despite ‘exponential’ growth of renewables.”

“Coal use hit a record high around the world last year despite efforts to switch to clean energy, imperilling the world’s attempts to rein in global heating. **The share of coal in electricity generation dropped as renewable energy surged ahead. But the general increase in power demand meant that more coal was used overall,** according to the **annual State of Climate Action report**, published on Wednesday. ...”

The report painted a grim picture of the world’s chances of avoiding increasingly severe impacts from the climate crisis. **Countries are falling behind the targets they have set for reducing greenhouse gas emissions**, which have continued to rise, albeit at a lower rate than before. ... The **good news is that renewable energy generation has grown “exponentially”**, according to the report, which found solar to be “the fastest-growing power source in history”. This is still not enough, however: **the annual growth rates of solar and wind power need to double for the world to make the emissions cuts needed by the end of this decade....”**

PS: “... **The report also sounded a warning on the state of the world’s “carbon sinks”** – forests, peatlands, wetlands, oceans and other natural features that store carbon. While nations have repeatedly pledged to protect their forests, they **continue to be cut down**, albeit at a slower rate in some areas. In 2024, more than 8m hectares (20m acres) of forest were permanently lost. “

TGH – Why Yellow Fever Demands a Seat at COP30's Climate Negotiations

<https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/why-yellow-fever-demands-a-seat-at-cop30s-climate-negotiations>

“In November, leaders will gather in the heart of the Amazon, a living symbol for climate-driven epidemics... **COP30 offers a pivotal opportunity** for leaders to address the intersection of climate change and health, nowhere more urgently than in the **fight against yellow fever and other climate-sensitive diseases.** “

“In 2024, **Brazil unveiled a new diagnostic test** that can reliably detect the yellow fever virus in **nonhuman primates within approximately 40 minutes.** It functions like a portable lab, using a simple heating process rather than complex machines, making it faster and easier to use in the field. ...”

ODI - From Washington to Belém and beyond: a new era for climate finance

<https://odi.org/en/insights/from-washington-to-belem-and-beyond-a-new-era-for-climate-finance/>

“The world of climate finance just got more interesting. Last week, in the margins of the IMF and World Bank Annual Meetings in Washington DC, the **Brazilian government launched the report of**

the ‘Circle of Finance Ministers’ it has convened as part of its COP30 Presidency. The occasion looks as if it will mark the start of a new era in the financing of climate action.....”

“The report has been written by Brazil’s own finance ministry, drawing on the work of finance experts and institutions throughout the world, and wide consultation. Running to over 100 pages, it is a compendium of pretty much all the climate finance analysis, ideas and proposals which have been developed and discussed over recent years. It sets out the economic case for climate investment (in mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage), the general principles which should govern such finance, and the issues and barriers which have limited it up to now.”

“Organised around five ‘strategic priorities’ (concessional finance, multilateral development banks, domestic institutions and fiscal space, private capital mobilisation and regulatory issues), the report provides a more or less comprehensive menu of policy options for scaling up international financial flows. Brazil’s aim was to show how the new global ambition set by last year’s COP29 in Baku – \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035 – could be achieved. It has succeeded brilliantly. For this reason the report seems set to become the new bible of climate finance.....”

Project Syndicate – What Africans Want from COP30

C Lopez; <https://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/africa-must-present-a-united-front-at-cop30-by-carlos-lobes-2025-10>

“Instead of continuing to wait for aid, Africa is seeking to mobilize investment in its green transition, not because rich countries “owe” Africans – though they do – but because Africa can help the world tackle climate change. Success will require progress on four fronts, all of which will be addressed at COP30.”

More on Planetary Health

UN News - Groundbreaking report reveals powerful link between poverty and the climate crisis

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166125>

(see also last week’s IHP news) **“Nearly 80 per cent of the world’s poor – 887 million people – live in regions that are exposed to extreme heat, flooding and other climate hazards, highlighting the urgent need for global action to address the issue. That’s according to a report released on Friday by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Oxford University ahead of the COP30 climate summit in Brazil next month. By overlaying climate hazard data with multidimensional poverty data for the first time, it reveals how the climate crisis is reshaping global poverty.”**

“Globally, 1.1 billion people are living in multidimensional poverty – which spans health, education and living standards – and 887 million are directly exposed to at least one climate hazard. A staggering 651 million endure two or more, while 309 million live in regions that face three or four climate shocks simultaneously.....”

Stat (Op-ed) - Climate and health strategies must address the biodiversity crisis

N Vora et al ; <https://www.statnews.com/2025/10/20/biodiversity-loss-health-climate-change-policy/>

“In 2021 and again in 2023, more than 200 scientific journals issued a **rare joint call for health professionals to treat climate change and biodiversity loss as one indivisible global health emergency**. This framing reflects a growing recognition that human wellbeing is inextricably linked to the wellbeing of other animals and the planet.”

“... **Unfortunately, biodiversity has not received nearly as much attention as climate change within the health sector**. The COP28 declaration makes no mention of biodiversity, nor does the draft Belém Health Action Plan prepared ahead of this year’s climate conference, which, paradoxically, is taking place in an Amazonian city. The **New England Journal of Medicine**, the world’s leading medical journal, has a **special series on climate change but none for biodiversity**; a search for “climate change” on its website yields 3,000 hits; “biodiversity” produces just 17 results. This neglect obscures the reality that biodiversity loss directly influences health outcomes. **Without integrating biodiversity into climate and health strategies, efforts to stabilize climate and protect public health will fall short.....**”

WHO- With Asia and the Pacific on the front lines of the climate crisis, WHO unveils an ambitious blueprint for action on climate and health

<https://www.who.int/westernpacific/news/item/20-10-2025-with-asia-and-the-pacific-on-the-front-lines-of-the-climate-crisis--who-unveils-an-ambitious-blueprint-for-action-on-climate-and-health>

“The World Health Organization (WHO) today **launched its first-ever regional strategy for climate and health action**, alongside health ministers and health partners from 38 countries and areas attending the seventy-sixth session of the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific. **The strategy was developed by the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health in the Western Pacific Region (ACE)**, based in Seoul and hosted by the Republic of Korea.”

“... The Strategic plan for the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health (2025– 2030) sets out **three priorities for the next five years**:

1. Climate-resilient and sustainable health systems – helping countries adapt to climate impacts while reducing emissions from the health sector.
2. Healthy urban and island systems – promoting cleaner air, safer water and more sustainable urban development.
3. Sustainable food systems for people and planet – advancing nutrition and climate goals through resilient, low-emission food systems.

“The **ACE Strategy is built around three interconnected systems: Health, Urban & Island, and Food** — supporting our shared vision of healthy people, healthy environment, healthy planet.....”

Arthur Wyns (on LinkedIn) – re the Pan-African Conference on Climate and Health (Kenya)

“The Pan-African Conference on Climate and Health is taking place in Kenya this week, bringing together governments, researchers and funders from accross the continent. Here are **some of the highlights so far:**

Across Africa, 31 of 54 countries have already joined the global coalition of countries committed to transform their health systems to be more climate resilient (ATACH). Many countries are showcasing the progress they are making in building health systems to serve and protect African communities in the climate crisis.

A new \$1.4 million project was announced to protect communities in Senegal and Uganda from the health impacts of climate change, with support from The Rockefeller Foundation, International Development Research Centre (IDRC), African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC) & Makerere University School of Public Health (MakSPH). More on that here: <https://lnkd.in/gXiuEA5q>

The **newly established Lancet Countdown Africa under the leadership of Tafadzwanashe Mabhaudhi** is bringing together researchers and institutions to build a strong evidence base on the health impacts of climate change and strengthening capacity across Africa.

And importantly, countries are looking at unlocking more finance for climate and health action: about 16 countries are currently working on proposals to the Adaptation Fund to build climate-resilient health systems, with support from the World Health Organization African Region, on a portfolio that could unlock over US\$100 million.....”

Climate Uncovered - Conference Report: The Global Heating Emergency

Tom Harris; <https://drtomharris.substack.com/p/conference-report-the-global-heating>

Dire reading. “Ten years ago the world agreed to limit temperatures to 2°C by 2100, so it’s a little alarming to **attend a conference discussing if its even possible to prevent breaching that limit by 2040.**”

Carbon Brief - Analysis: Just 28% of countries have released nature pledges a year after UN deadline

<https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-just-28-of-countries-have-released-nature-pledges-a-year-after-un-deadline/>

“Just 28% of countries have met a UN call to submit new plans on addressing nature loss – a year after the original deadline, Carbon Brief analysis shows.”

“Several of the world’s most biodiverse countries – including Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Africa – are among those that have not yet released their nature plans. Countries were asked to submit their pledges, known as [national biodiversity strategies and](#)

[action plans](#) (NBSAPs), by the start of the [COP16](#) biodiversity summit in Colombia on 21 October 2024.....”

HPW - Air Pollution-Related Dementia Kills Over 625,000 People A Year

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/air-pollution-related-dementia-kills-over-625000-people-a-year/>

“From killing over 600,000 elderly from dementia to an almost equal number of infants under the age of one-year, air pollution’s impact on young and old is explained simply through hard-hitting numbers in the **latest State of Global Air (SOGA) report, by the Boston-based Health Effects Institute**. The report identifies plenty of scope for immediate policy action with multiple benefits for reducing an estimated 7.9 million deaths annually from air pollution.”

“**Dementia attributable to air pollution resulted in 626,000 deaths in 2023, a new report finds. ...**” “ This is the **first time that the [State of Global Air](#), an annual assessment of air quality worldwide, includes information about the burden of dementia attributable to air pollution – including some 28% of total dementia deaths every year.**” “ The **new data is based on the [2023 Global Burden of Disease](#) study by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), reflecting the growing epidemiological evidence about the higher levels of dementia disease and deaths in cities and regions that are more polluted.**”

Access to Medicines, vaccines & other health technologies

Reuters - Exclusive: India to force drugmakers to upgrade plants after fatal cough syrup crisis

[Reuters](#);

“**India to enforce WHO standards for drugmaker plants by year-end, sources say. Smaller firms had asked for more time, citing costs. Regulators pushed to act after spate of deaths linked to toxic cough syrup. Delhi plans to eventually phase out secondary testing of drugs made for export.**”

- For more, see Reuters - [WHO says India has much to do on toxic cough syrup despite some progress](#)

“ WHO says 'work in progress' in India to stop cough syrup deaths. Medicines should be tested at every step, agency says. India plans to upgrade pharma facilities by year-end.”

Devex - Can Africa’s drug regulators be both fast and trusted?

P Adepoju; <https://www.devex.com/news/can-africa-s-drug-regulators-be-both-fast-and-trusted-111147>

“When COVID-19 vaccines arrived, Nigeria’s regulators moved faster than ever. The urgency helped protect lives but also left people with doubts. Now, the experience is helping rebuild trust and prepare for the future.”

“While the world is no longer in emergency mode, that lingering distrust **continues to haunt routine childhood immunization programs**. And for regulators, it’s been a tough lesson on [the importance of public trust....](#)”

Also on **AMA**.

R4D - Access in action: Ethiopia’s bold steps to ensure quality, affordable medicines and other health products

https://r4d.org/catalyzing-national-capacity-to-ensure-access-to-health-products-in-ethiopia/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=R4D_Insights_Oct_2025

Ethiopia is the ‘**first country in Sub-Saharan Africa to build market shaping capacity at the national level and setting a precedent for the region**. With support from R4D, the country’s pharmaceutical supply agency is increasing its capacity to manage medicine markets....’ “In 2019, with support from the Gates Foundation, a new partnership was launched — the Ethiopia Market Shaping Capacity Improvement Project (EMSCIP). ...”

GAVI - From offering access to pursuing equity

<https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/offering-access-pursuing-equity>

“5,000 health workers met online to figure out what lay beneath vaccine hesitancy in their communities. Here are some of their insights.”

Lancet Editorial – Drug pricing and pharmaceutical innovation: a false promise

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)02160-9/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)02160-9/fulltext)

With focus on the UK and its current ‘pharma exodus’ troubles.

Concluding: “Undoubtedly, pharma companies play an important part in health and medical science, particularly in funding pivotal clinical trials and large-scale medicines production. But **the argument that paying more for medicines leads to more innovation is unfounded**. If the UK Government wants to attract pharma investment, it should follow the evidence. Rather than handing over more money for medicines, it should invest in creating fertile conditions for attracting world-leading scientists, boosting public infrastructure for research and development, and facilitating clinical trials. Although the tangible outcomes of applied research might appeal to politicians, **investing massively in a second-to-none basic science sector will allow scientific innovation to flourish**. The **dysfunctionalities of the pharma business model will not be solved by ramping up drug prices**.”

Conflict/war & health

PHM (& other orgs) - Call to Mobilize for the Defense of a Democratic Multilateral System and International Law

<https://phmovement.org/call-mobilize-defense-democratic-multilateral-system-and-international-law>

Excerpt:

“To this end, we also urge UN Member States to: fulfill their responsibilities and take concrete measures to counter the systematic erosion of international law, while upholding the multilateral system in pursuit of peace, human rights, social justice, and environmental protection; **consider the immediate transfer of the UN headquarters from New York to Geneva, pending a collective decision on the future location of the UN’s principal seat,** to end the arbitrary and illegal interference by the U.S. government in the functioning of the Organization.....”

“In this spirit, we advocate for a multilateral system free from the omnipotent grip of powerful states and economic interests, thereby ensuring a democratic, inclusive, and participatory multilateralism. Defending and strengthening such a system requires resolute opposition to the law of the strongest and a firm commitment to upholding the equal rights of all peoples and states to be heard, represented, and protected under international law.....”

WHO's 60-day ceasefire plan for Gaza

“....This document summarizes WHO’s key planning assumptions, strategic priorities and selected activities. The activities fall within the scope of the overall WHO operational response and early recovery plan for the occupied Palestinian territory: 2025, and the One-UN multi-sectoral Gaza Ceasefire Humanitarian Response Plan Summary: 60 days of 13 October 2025....”

Read the **full document:** <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/60-day-ceasefire-plan-for-gaza>

Lancet World Report - What does the ceasefire plan mean for health in Gaza?

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)02158-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)02158-0/fulltext)

“The recent ceasefire agreement is bringing a fragile peace to Gaza. Aside from a cessation of hostilities, it has important implications for health. John Zarocostas reports.”

BBC - 'Fatal combination' of disease, injuries and famine in Gaza is generational crisis, WHO tells BBC

[BBC](#);

“Gaza is experiencing a health "catastrophe" that will last for "generations to come", the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO) has warned.....”

- Related: BMJ Feature - [Gaza's famine has intergenerational health consequences](#)

See also HPW - [Billions Are Needed to Rebuild Gaza's Health System, Says Tedros](#)

"At least \$7 billion is needed to rebuild Gaza's health system, which has no fully functioning hospitals, and critical shortages of essential medicines, equipment and health workers, World Health Organization (WHO) Director General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a media briefing on Thursday....."

BMJ Nutrition, Prevention & Health (Editorial) -Conflict and its global health consequences: a decolonial call to action

J Gamlin et al; <https://nutrition.bmj.com/content/early/2025/10/15/bmjnp-2020-000179>

"Global health institutions hold the tradition of abstaining from political commentary when acting in response mode to contexts of humanitarian crisis, displacement or conflict, under the imperative of keeping access routes open to save lives. Yet if this community of practitioners and academics from the fields of medicine and public health or humanitarians concerned with the health of conflict-affected populations want a role in preventing the health and medical outcomes of social and ecological violence, they must not remain silent on the historical, geopolitical and contemporary determinants of war and conflict. This is a silence that in relation to the current situation in Gaza has been described as 'morally unacceptable'....."

With a call to action.

".... The case has been made clearly for decolonising global health. Our focus is on actioning the decolonisation of conflict prevention and its impacts on life-sustaining resources, and within this, nurturing and repairing people-land relations as a prerequisite for sustainable food supplies. "
 And a quote: **"Aid is not a solution to global inequality, yet it remains preferable to no aid at all, since its existence denotes a recognition that we inhabit an unjust world in which resources are unfairly distributed. Reductions in aid are a large step backwards for decolonising Global Health as it further removes from view the role of colonial nations in creating and enabling the conditions for conflict""**

BMJ Feature - How attacking healthcare has become a strategy of war

<https://www.bmj.com/content/391/bmj.r2153>

"Gaza, Ukraine, and Sudan have put a spotlight on attacks on healthcare facilities and staff in conflict zones. The BMJ looks at the data, which seem to show a new strategy of war: removing civilians' access to care."

Miscellaneous

Via HPW: [Tedros on World Polio Day:](#)

“Friday (24 October) is World Polio Day, and when we launched the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 198, more than 350,000 children were paralysed by polio every year,” Tedros noted. “Today, that number has dropped by more than 99% with just 36 cases of wild poliovirus reported so far this year,” he added, giving credit to the leadership of Rotary International for polio elimination.

Guardian – Welfare cuts have fuelled rise of far right and populism, top UN expert says

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/oct/21/welfare-cuts-have-fuelled-rise-of-far-right-and-populism-top-un-expert-says>

“Poverty rapporteur says governments must rethink welfare state as essential to fabric of society.”

“Decades of efforts by mainstream politicians to roll back welfare programmes have given rise to an “extremely dangerous” discourse that has helped fuel the rise of the far right and rightwing populists in countries around the world, a top UN expert has told the Guardian. From London to Lisbon, politicians from centre-right and centre-left parties alike had steadily eroded social programmes, fostering a sense of scarcity and creating fertile ground for the stirring up of anti-migrant sentiment, said Olivier De Schutter, the UN special rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.....”

“.... De Schutter [will present] a report to the UN general assembly on Wednesday that lays out his belief in the value of investing in universal, rights-based social protection. At the heart of his argument is the need for governments to rethink the welfare state – from food assistance to healthcare and unemployment benefits – as an essential tool to maintain the social fabric of society, rather than a cost to be reduced.....”

- The report: <https://docs.un.org/en/A/80/138>

Jason Hickel - Is your system fair? Striking new data from 42 countries

<https://jasonhickel.substack.com/p/is-your-system-fair-striking-new>

“In most countries people do not believe their system is fair... with one exception: China.”

“Is your system fair? This is the question that occupies researchers who work in the field of System Justification Theory. They want to understand whether - and why - people regard the economic and political system they live under as fair, just and legitimate.....”

...A recent study, published last year in the journal *Political Psychology*, explored survey data for 24,000 people in 42 countries around the world. The results show that, on average, people do not justify the system they live in. The average response across all countries in the sample is 3.2, close to “somewhat disagree”.....”

- Related: Jason Hickel – [Support for government in China: is the data accurate?](#)

“Some have questioned the survey results. Are the skeptics right?”

Global Health Policy Lab

<https://www.globalhealthpolicylab.org/>

Resource.

“The Global Health Policy Lab started as joint initiative between the Charité Center for Global Health, the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health and the Virchow Foundation – and we continue growing our global partnership network. Founded in 2024, the GHPL collaborative has focused on one ambitious goal: making health policymaking more transparent and effective. We are building an open-access Digital Repository for Health Policy and disseminate an annual outlook report that includes an analysis of health policy trends, covering challenges, opportunities, threats and solutions.....”

In other words, an **AI-enabled Digital Repository for Health Policy** to make policymaking more evidence-based and collaborative.”

2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI): Overlapping Hardships: Poverty and Climate Hazards

<https://hdr.undp.org/content/2025-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi#/indicies/MPI>

See also above. **“This 2025 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) report, for the first time, overlays data on climate hazards and multidimensional poverty to assess how exposed poor people are to environmental shocks.** The report highlights that most people in poverty are exposed to at least one climate hazard; many confront several at the same time. By the end of this century, the countries projected to face the steepest temperature increases are those already burdened with higher levels of multidimensional poverty.....”

Global health governance & Governance of Health

Global Policy – Development Assistance Committee launches review as the sector is at a crossroads

B Ellmers; <https://www.globalpolicy.org/en/news/2025-10-21/development-assistance-committee-launches-review-sector-crossroads>

“...Political declarations on more and better ODA were recently made at the United Nations (UN) Financing for Development Conference in Sevilla. But if there is to be a reversal of the declining trend in ODA, the DAC must play a decisive role. The DAC review provides opportunities to make sure the DAC is fit for purpose in a changing context. A first consultation with civil society organisations (CSOs) took place in Paris on October 13 in Paris during the 2025 DAC-CSO dialogue....”

Check out the **thematic pillars**.

UN News - UN faces 'race to bankruptcy' as Guterres unveils sharply reduced 2026 budget

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166128>

“The United Nations faces a “race to bankruptcy” unless Member States pay their dues in full and on time, Secretary-General António Guterres warned [last week] on Friday, presenting a sharply reduced \$3.238 billion regular budget for 2026.....”

“The [revised proposal](#) marks a significant drop from his [original ask for next year of \\$3.715 billion](#) and is 15.1 per cent below the [2025 approved appropriation](#). **Speaking to the [Fifth Committee](#) of the General Assembly – which handles UN finances and administration – Mr. Guterres described a deeply precarious outlook**, with high arrears, delayed contributions and the “return of credits” threatening to wipe out liquidity and undermine core operations.....”

Devex - How much power does the UN secretary-general have to reform the body?

<https://www.devex.com/news/how-much-power-does-the-un-secretary-general-have-to-reform-the-body-111124>

“How much power does the United Nations chief have to reform the world body? Less than you might imagine.”

“In his bid to usher in a major reform and downsizing of the world body, U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres is facing some pretty stiff headwinds from U.N. member states and officials within the U.N.’s own ranks. ... The U.N., for all its efforts to project a unified front, is largely a sprawling semiautonomous federal system, with many of its agencies answering to their own executive boards, donors, and beneficiaries. Some were created by the U.N. General Assembly, others by the U.N. Economic and Social Council, some by both, and some, such as the International Labor Organization, were established decades before the U.N. was even born. So while the U.N. chief may play a critical role in selecting some of these agencies’ leaders, including UNAIDS’ Winnie Byanyima, his picks will answer to a new set of masters once they take on their new jobs.....”

“The U.N. Charter grants the secretary-general powers to administer the work of the U.N. Secretariat, which today consists of some 33,000 international civil servants, a fraction of the 130,000-plus employees of the broader U.N. system.....” But even there, his power is fairly constrained.

“... U.N. member states have already begun advocating for favored agencies and programs during an Oct. 15 U.N. briefing on UN80.....”

Eg: **“... the Netherlands, speaking on behalf of the three Benelux countries, including Belgium and Luxembourg, urged Guterres to “reflect” on his proposals to sunset UNAIDS by the end of 2026, and merge the “equally important mandates of UNFPA and UN Women.”....”**

IISD - UNSG Briefs Member States on UN80 Structural, Programmatic Changes

<https://sdg.iisd.org/news/unsg-briefs-member-states-on-un80-structural-programmatic-changes/>

“On peace and security, the Secretary-General proposed to consolidate and reconfigure teams at Headquarters and special political missions through a “networked” model seeking to eliminate duplication and increase coherence. **On humanitarian operations**, he presented the New Humanitarian Compact between UN humanitarian agencies, to bring the UN system together in a new Collaborative Humanitarian Diplomacy Initiative, fostering coordinated negotiation and unified messaging. Among the **proposals on sustainable development** was to **restructure entities where there may be overlaps or duplications, starting with an assessment of the potential benefits of a merger between UNDP and UNOPS and a merger between UNFPA and UN-Women, with initial findings and options to be presented to Member States in early 2026.**”

Devex – UN picks former Belgian prime minister to lead UNDP

<https://www.devex.com/news/un-picks-former-belgian-prime-minister-to-lead-undp-111159>

“U.N. Secretary General António Guterres taps Alexander De Croo to run U.N.'s premier development agency.”

Devex – World Bank pledges ‘no regression’ as it weighs accountability overhaul

<https://www.devex.com/news/world-bank-pledges-no-regression-as-it-weighs-accountability-overhaul-111127>

“As the bank tries to streamline overlapping functions, **board members sought to assure civil society groups that communities negatively affected by the institution's projects will have the same level of access to accountability functions.** “No dilution, no regression,” a key World Bank board member vowed, signaling that **any overhaul of the institution’s accountability system will preserve existing powers while integrating a new remedial action framework for the bank’s private-sector arm, the International Finance Corporation.....**”

“**Parameswaran Iyer**, executive director representing India on the World Bank’s board, told civil society representatives Thursday that **the task force examining possible reforms would prioritize strengthening, not weakening, the bank’s accountability architecture.....**”

Devex – The German development ministry's survival plan

<https://www.devex.com/news/the-german-development-ministry-s-survival-plan-111121>

“**Under pressure, the BMZ is linking aid to its own economy, a move that critics say risks the ministry's core mission for the sake of political survival.....**”

“**A new plan by the German development ministry [BMZ](#), published Oct. 7**, shows that it is **strategically refocusing its efforts on economic cooperation and private partnerships that will aim to benefit the German economy.** The [proposal](#) is notable because it has support from both parties governing the country in a coalition — the center-right Christian Democrats, or CDU, and the center-left Social Democrats, or SPD — a win for the coalition government. But experts are skeptical that this public declaration will have a significant impact.....”

“BMZ may be the last freestanding development ministry in the West. But with elections due by March 2029, it has to prove whether its turn inward to German firms can be a smart strategy — or just desperation....”

Devex - Citizens of the world's most generous donor favor its aid expenditures

<https://www.devex.com/news/citizens-of-the-world-s-most-generous-donor-favor-its-aid-expenditures-111136>

“The director general of Norway’s development agency offers some reasons that the country’s public wants to spend money on international development.”

“Part of the mandate of the [Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation](#), or Norad, said the agency’s director general, Gunn Jorid Roset, is to **inform not just politicians but the public about its work**. “I think that is where also the public trust in what we do comes in. And ... I think it’s very important that we do that: **We inform about results, we inform about dilemmas, maybe also about the international discussions surrounding us when it comes to this landscape,**” she said during a [Devex Impact House](#) event on the sidelines of the World Bank-International Monetary Fund [annual meetings](#). **That communication is a part of the agency’s work**, alongside advising the Norwegian government on development-related matters and answering questions from politicians who challenge the effectiveness of their work on aid.....”

Geneva Solutions - Unctad meets in Geneva as budget pressures put mission on the line

<https://genevasolutions.news/sustainable-business-finance/unctad-meets-in-geneva-as-budget-pressures-put-mission-on-the-line>

“As the UN’s flagship trade and development conference returns to Geneva, developing nations fight to preserve a robust mandate, while donor countries urge caution amid budget pressures and a shifting multipolar world....”

- Related: [The Wire – 16th UNCTAD: A Pillar of the South, Now Diminished](#) (by Ravi Kanth Devarakonda)

“UNCTAD has been plagued by a combination of belligerence from advanced countries, determined to silence its developmental voice and turn it into an unthreatening technical assistance body.”

Concluding: “...With multilateralism facing its biggest crisis in 80 years and development prospects under threat from a variety of sources, **the South has begun to show signs of vigour**, from new regional trade arrangements to alternative financial financing mechanisms and an expanded BRICS. But reading through the outcome document for the conference, **there seems little appreciation of the urgent need for systemic change nor a willingness to see UNCTAD assume a role that could help channel those efforts into lasting change at the multilateral level.**”

Frontiers in Public Health - Contesting the Future of AI in Global Health: Narratives of Artificial Intelligence in the World Health Organization's Foresight Exercises

<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/public-health/articles/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1659980/abstract>

by J Tucker et al.

CGD Note - Zero LICs by 2040: A Call for G20 Action

C Kenny; <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/zero-lics-2040-call-g20-action>

‘Between 2000 and 2023, the number of low-income countries (LICs) worldwide, with GNI per capita below \$1,145, declined from 63 to 26. Graduates included G20 member India (China graduated in 1998). If the same rate of graduation continued, there would be no LICs by 2040. But that outcome is extremely unlikely absent considerable national and global policy change. ...’

“Graduation rates have slowed over the past 10 years, and annual per capita growth has averaged less than 0.1 percent since 2010 in current LICs. That more recent performance suggests as few as three additional graduations by 2035 and three more in the 15 years 2035 to 2050.”

“G20 countries should be concerned by this outcome. LICs are not only home to the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people, they are also fragile states at high risk of conflict, with limited capacity to provide global public goods from security to biodiversity and pandemic control. Providing coordinated support in areas from finance through market access and migration opportunities, the G20 could accelerate LIC progress towards comparative prosperity, self-reliance and stability to considerable global benefit.....”

LSE (blog) - Aid risks being increasingly confined to countries where it doesn't work – what to do?

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/activism-influence-change/2025/10/23/aid-risks-being-increasingly-confined-to-countries-where-it-doesnt-work-what-to-do/>

Duncan Green on a recent panel on the future of aid & development. With **four suggestions**.

Global health financing

ODI - The \$600 billion question: How far can multilateral development banks go?

<https://odi.org/en/insights/the-600-billion-question-how-far-can-multilateral-development-banks-go/>

“The revised rating methodology adopted by Standard & Poor’s (S&P) suggests that multilateral development banks (MDBs) can lend much more for development while remaining AAA. These are exactly the kinds of changes that the G20's MDB Capital Adequacy Review intended. Now the question is: will Moody's and Fitch follow suit?...”

Devex – Can innovative models close financing gaps for neglected disease R&D?

[Devex](#);

“Diseases such as dengue, cholera, and leptospirosis are on the rise globally, yet funding for tests, vaccines, and treatments remains limited. **A new study highlights innovative financing mechanisms that could help.....**”

“Vaccines, tests, and treatments for neglected diseases, such as dengue, will require innovative financing mechanisms to incentivize manufacturers to prioritize them and ensure they reach populations that need them, according to a [new study](#). Not enough funding is allocated for the late-stage development of products, including for large-scale trials to evaluate a product’s efficacy and safety; licensing and [World Health Organization](#) prequalification, which is a requirement for the procurement of international procuring agencies; and commercialization, according to the **landscape study of South and Southeast Asia** by [AVPN](#), [Wellcome Trust](#), and [Access Partnership](#)....”

- Cfr the **new study**: [Innovative Financing for Infectious Diseases in South and Southeast Asia](#)

“South and Southeast Asia still shoulder some of the world’s heaviest burdens of cholera, dengue, leptospirosis, meningococcal meningitis and typhoid. Dozens of promising vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics are already in—or approaching—Phase III trials, yet most will not reach patients unless late-stage financing and delivery barriers are overcome. This report, supported by [Wellcome Trust](#) and in collaboration with Access Partnership, is intended as a convening tool: it maps those barriers, matches them to the right innovative-finance instruments, and identifies where governments, philanthropies, MDBs, manufacturers, and global health agencies must act together to fund the region’s most promising interventions.”

Devex - New global nonprofit accounting standard aims to save NGOs millions

https://www.devex.com/news/new-global-nonprofit-accounting-standard-aims-to-save-ngos-millions-111138?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=devex_social_icons

“A new framework launching this week in Geneva aims to bring consistency to nonprofit accounting — and cut the cost of compliance.”

“A new global accounting standard for nonprofits — launching this week in Geneva — could mark one of the most significant shifts in how international NGOs manage and report their finances, potentially saving the sector millions in administrative costs. The International Nonprofit Accounting Standards, or INPAS, is designed to bring consistency to the world of nonprofit financial reporting. For the first time, nongovernmental organizations across countries will be able to use a single, internationally recognized accounting framework — one that donors and regulators alike can trust....”

Devex – The essential glossary of global development financing for BD pros

https://www.devex.com/downloadables/the-essential-glossary-of-global-development-financing-for-bd-pros-55?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Bluesky#Echobox=1756826362

Resource.

Lancet Infectious Diseases (Newsdesk) - A new model for foreign aid?

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(25\)00610-3/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(25)00610-3/abstract)

“On Sept 24, 2025, **Project Resource Optimization**, launched in February 2025 in response to US foreign aid cuts, announced full funding for vital development projects. Talha Burki reports.”

Excerpt: “**Sir Ali Zumla, Professor of Infectious Diseases and International Health at University College London, UK, welcomed the PRO initiative. He pointed out that, by raising more than \$110 million in a matter of months, it has shown that private philanthropy can move quickly when provided with structure and transparency.** “It suggests that in a world of shrinking government aid budgets, donor consortia could partially step in”, added Zumla. **But he cautioned that individual initiatives such as PRO are unlikely to be able to take on the slower, broader, and highly expensive work of health system strengthening and infrastructure building.** A funder would have to be willing to commit substantial resources over several years if they were to pick up the Demographic and Health Surveys programme, for example. **“With bilateral aid retreating, the danger is a patchwork of philanthropic efforts without coordination, leaving whole areas unserved. A new architecture would need at least some coordinating framework”**, concluded Zumla.”

UHC & PHC

P4H - Private hospitals dominate Ayushman Bharat utilisation despite government majority

<https://p4h.world/en/news/private-hospitals-dominate-ayushman-bharat-utilisation-despite-government-majority/>

“**Despite most Ayushman Bharat hospitals being government-run, over half of treatments and two-thirds of costs occur in private hospitals.** Since 2018, 9 crore treatments worth Rs 1.29 lakh crore have been provided. The scheme’s digital mission has linked 50 crore health records.”

“**Despite most empanelled hospitals under the Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) being government-run, beneficiaries are predominantly using the scheme at private-sector facilities and at higher costs.** According to the **National Health Authority’s latest annual report**, of the 31,005 hospitals enrolled under the scheme, only 45% are private, yet they account for 52% of the 9.19 crore hospitalisations recorded since the scheme’s launch in 2018. These treatments amount to Rs 1.29 lakh crore, with nearly two-thirds (66%) of the expenditure occurring in the private sector.....”

Ghana begins preparations for free primary healthcare under Mahama Cares Initiative

https://www.modernghana.com/news/1437092/ghana-begins-preparations-for-free-primary-healthc.html#google_vignette

Ghana has begun preparatory steps towards the implementation of free primary health care, under the Mahama Cares Initiative.

Lancet - Health care in the USA: money has become the mission

A Gaffney et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)01669-1/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)01669-1/abstract)

Review.

- See also **Stat Opinion** – [The U.S. experiment with profit-driven health care has failed](#) (by S Woolhandler et al)

“The corporate takeover of health care has destroyed America’s health.”

Planetary health

Book - Greening the International Monetary Fund

Alexandros Kentikelenis and Thomas Stubbs; <https://www.cambridge.org/core/elements/greening-the-international-monetary-fund/62D38ED5DA71F660DC1A3D8CFDB8858C>

“The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has emerged as a key player in climate policy. The organization introduced its Climate Strategy in 2021 and established the Resilience and Sustainability Facility in 2022 to provide financial support to countries facing adaptation and mitigation challenges. The IMF's closer engagement with the economic dimensions of climate change holds the promise of helping countries pre-empt large-scale economic dislocations from climate risks. But how much progress has the IMF made in supporting the green transition? What is the policy track record of the IMF's climate loans? How do regular IMF loans and mandated reforms encompass climate considerations? How have the IMF's economic surveillance activities considered climate risks? Based on new evidence, **the findings in this Element point to the multifaceted, and at times contradictory, ways green transition objectives have become embedded within IMF activities.”**

CGD (Policy Paper) - The IMF and Climate Change: Focus on What Matters for Greater Impact

M Svenstrup; <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/imf-and-climate-change-focus-what-matters-greater-impact>

“The IMF has an important role to play in climate-related macro-financial issues, especially at a time of great uncertainty for global climate action. As the only multilateral institution responsible for promoting global macroeconomic and financial stability, the IMF needs a better approach to help countries, particularly emerging market and developing countries (EMDCs), get their economic frameworks right—as a necessary foundation to mobilize public and private investments including for climate action. This is the key area where the IMF can be bold to help advance climate action in the current environment. In parallel, the IMF should streamline the remainder of its climate work to

what is macro-critical and aligned with its mandate. **This paper recommends** that the IMF (1) dramatically strengthen lending programs by enabling countries to more durably implement ambitious reforms, escape debt overhang that inhibits growth, and ultimately invest to make their economies cleaner and more resilient; (2) **rethink the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST), which has thus far had incremental impact, to support a narrower set of ambitious macro-critical reforms aimed at catalyzing investment and supporting stronger programs;** (3) buy political space and leverage IMF expertise by strictly limiting coverage of climate issues in surveillance to where it is macro-critical and aligned with the IMF's mandate; and (4) further enhance partnership with the World Bank, being clear where more collaboration is needed and where the institutions can divide and conquer."

UN News - Most major methane leak alerts ignored despite climate threat

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166158>

"UN satellite tracking has greatly improved detection of major methane leaks – a gas responsible for about a third of global warming – yet companies and governments are acting on only around 12 per cent of alerts.

... According to the **latest edition of UNEP's [International Methane Observatory publication](#)** released on Wednesday, **the number of alerts leading to action rose from one per cent to 12 per cent in the past year.** The agency says more action is needed to achieve the goal of curbing a third of methane emissions by 2030...."

HHR digest – EU countries export banned pesticides

<https://www.hhrjournal.org/health-and-human-rights-news/>

"New data reveals that EU countries are increasing their exports of pesticides banned in the EU. Regulators have ruled the pesticides pose unacceptable risks to the environment and human health, including links to cancer, infertility, miscarriage, fetal development, neurological diseases, and death. Human Rights Watch and 14 other organizations have sent letters urging the European Commission to halt these exports, mainly to low- and middle-income countries."

Covid

Science (News) – A surprise bonus from COVID-19 vaccines: bolstering cancer treatment

<https://www.science.org/content/article/surprise-bonus-covid-19-vaccines-bolstering-cancer-treatment>

"Patients who got shots of mRNA before starting a type of cancer immunotherapy lived much longer."

Mpox

NYT – Three Cases of Mpox Tied to Severe Illness Worry Health Experts

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/17/health/mpox-california-los-angeles-county.html>

“None of the patients, all California residents, had traveled abroad, **suggesting the Clade 1 form was transmitted locally.**”

Infectious diseases & NTDs

Lancet Infectious Diseases – November issue

[https://www.thelancet.com/issue/S1473-3099\(25\)X0011-6](https://www.thelancet.com/issue/S1473-3099(25)X0011-6)

Including the [Editorial: The promise of lifelong vaccination](#)

“... As **populations age globally, however, adult vaccination is emerging as a crucial tool for ensuring healthy ageing and resilient health systems—both through disease prevention and cost savings from averted care.** Adult vaccination **can also promote antimicrobial stewardship** by directly reducing the incidence of antimicrobial-resistant infections and indirectly reducing antibiotic use. Given these cost benefits and the large number of diverse vaccines in development (such as vaccines against Lyme borreliosis and Epstein-Barr virus, **new vaccination strategies are needed to improve vaccine access and scale up delivery to adults.** ...”

Concluding: “... **The success of initiatives aimed at improving adult vaccine uptake and delivery will probably determine the sustainability of global health systems more generally.** This success will require collaboration among governments and industries and clear communication about health-care services and the quality of life that people deserve at all ages.”

Nature Medicine – A simple strategy to cut malaria infection rates in babies

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41591-025-00061-5>

“Baby wraps treated with the insecticide permethrin reduced the incidence of malaria in infants by 66%, according to a **randomized controlled trial in Uganda.**”

WHO and partners strengthen coordination for NTD programmes and supply chain delivery

<https://www.who.int/news/item/19-10-2025-who-and-partners-strengthen-coordination-for-ntd-programmes-and-supply-chain-delivery>

“The World Health Organization (WHO), together with health ministries, pharmaceutical donors, implementing partners and technical support platforms, convened three major back-to-back

meetings in Geneva on 23–26 September 2025. The meetings – [the NTD Supply Chain Forum \(NTD-SCF\)](#), the [Supply Chain Technical Support Mechanism \(SCTSM\)](#) and the [Global Coordination and Stewardship Committee \(GCSC\)](#) – brought together over 150 global and national stakeholders **to strengthen coordination and stewardship on supply chains for neglected tropical disease (NTD) medicines.** Key discussions focused on improving medicine forecasting, ensuring smooth logistics, securing sustainable financing and tracking last-mile delivery to ensure that health products reach those in need.....”

AMR

SS&M - Equity in the Governance of Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance: Global Experts’ Perspectives

Raphael Aguiar, A Ruckert et al ;

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953625010330>

« Equity considerations must be incorporated in the design of AMR surveillance systems. Urbanization shapes AMR risks and associated vulnerabilities. Social determinants must guide AMR policy and surveillance. Global North-South inequities must be considered in AMR policy and surveillance. AMR Surveillance must target structural root causes. »

Cidrap News - Sales data show antibiotic consumption rising in Southeast Asia, Africa

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/antimicrobial-stewardship/sales-data-show-antibiotic-consumption-rising-southeast-asia-africa>

“An **analysis** of antibiotic sales data shows **substantial shifts in the global pattern of antibiotic consumption over the past decade**, researchers reported last week in *The Lancet Global Health*.....”

GAVI – How microplastic pollution is boosting antimicrobial resistance

<https://www.gavi.org/vaccineswork/how-microplastic-pollution-boosting-antimicrobial-resistance>

“Antimicrobial resistance and environmental plastic contamination are escalating threats to human and planetary health. Now research is showing that **one crisis may be directly fuelling the other.**”

BMJ GH - Stakeholder analysis for ‘One Health’ approach to tackle antimicrobial resistance

S Adikhari et al; <https://gh.bmj.com/content/10/10/e019236>

Re a case study in Nepal.

NCDs

Lancet - The effects of antidepressants on cardiometabolic and other physiological parameters: a systematic review and network meta-analysis

Toby Pillinger et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)01293-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)01293-0/fulltext)

“Antidepressants induce physiological alterations; however, the degree to which these occur in treatment with various antidepressants is unclear. We **aimed to compare and rank antidepressants based on physiological side-effects** by synthesising data from randomised controlled trials (RCTs).....”

“... We found strong evidence that antidepressants differ markedly in their physiological effects, particularly for cardiometabolic parameters....”

PS: via Stat: “As usual, there’s a caveat that all of these findings are based on short-term studies with an average length of eight weeks. There’s a **major lack of long-term research on the effects that antidepressants have on people....**”

Guardian – Weight-loss drug cuts heart attack risk regardless of kilograms shed, study finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2025/oct/22/weight-loss-drug-cuts-heart-attack-risk-no-matter-how-many-kgs-are-shed-study-finds>

“**Semaglutide study suggests such drugs could have wider benefits**, though researchers find shrinking waistlines linked to better heart outcomes.”

“The **weight-loss drug semaglutide cuts the risk of heart attack or stroke regardless of how many kilograms people lose, the largest study of its kind has found**. However, shrinking waist size – a sign of less belly fat – was linked to better heart outcomes, according to the research. The **findings, published in the Lancet**, suggest drugs could have wider benefits for patients beyond weight loss so should not be restricted to the most obese patients.....”

“Researchers set out to examine the additional benefits of semaglutide, which is the main ingredient of the weight-loss drug Wegovy. “ (by **University College London (UCL)**)

Nature Medicine - Creativity keeps the brain young

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41591-025-00063-3>

“A **study** shows that **creativity enhances brain health** by improving connectivity in age-vulnerable regions, **highlighting the importance of supporting creative activities in public health strategies.**”

The Conversation - Cancer drug quality in Africa is a worry: what we found in a 4-country study

M Lieberman; <https://theconversation.com/cancer-drug-quality-in-africa-is-a-worry-what-we-found-in-a-4-country-study-262529>

“Our recent study investigated the **quality of seven anticancer drugs in four African countries....**”

Social & commercial determinants of health

The Examination - Smoking costs countries billions in health care. Just two have forced tobacco companies to pay up.

<https://www.theexamination.org/articles/why-most-countries-never-got-a-tobacco-settlement>

“Governments in the U.S. and Canada went to court and got tobacco companies to pay for smoking-related diseases. Many other lawsuits have failed.”

“Governments in 21 countries have sued the tobacco industry for the health costs of smoking - and only two have seen any money....”

Mental health & psycho-social wellbeing

SS&M - Gender at the Crossroads of Mental Health and Climate Change: A Scoping Review

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0277953625010391>

By T Z. Abu et al.

Sexual & Reproductive health rights

The Conversation - Young mothers in Kenya face a higher risk of giving birth early: study explores why

<https://theconversation.com/young-mothers-in-kenya-face-a-higher-risk-of-giving-birth-early-study-explores-why-266982>

*“Preterm babies are those born alive before 37 weeks of pregnancy are completed. The global figure for babies born early was 13.4 million in 2020. But statistics on preterm babies in African countries are poor. **Obasanjo Bolarinwa and Kobi Ajayi, who research and teach public health and global healthcare management issues, unpack their research from Kenya....**”*

Lancet Obstetrics, Gynaecology, & Women's Health - Leveraging socioeconomic development for maternal health, breast cancer, and gynaecological cancers across 204 locations: a stochastic frontier analysis from the Global Burden of Disease Study 2023

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanogw/article/PIIS3050-5038\(25\)00031-7/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanogw/article/PIIS3050-5038(25)00031-7/fulltext)

by G F Gil et al.

Neonatal and child health

Africa CDC and Partners Open High-Level Regional Forum on Immunisation in West Africa

<https://africacdc.org/news-item/africa-cdc-and-partners-open-high-level-regional-forum-on-immunisation-in-west-africa/>

PS: “...Senegal’s leadership in this space is widely recognised, especially with the establishment of the **MADIBA vaccine production hub, inaugurated in December 2024**. The facility aims to contribute to the African Union’s goal of producing 60 per cent of Africa’s vaccine needs by 2040.....”

Devex - Toward a lead-free future: The case for action now

<https://www.devex.com/news/sponsored/toward-a-lead-free-future-the-case-for-action-now-111134>

“Lead poisoning affects 800 million children each year but receives very little global attention and funding. That needs to change, said experts on the sidelines of UNGA80 — and tackling it won’t break the bank....”

BMJ Editorial - Global resurgence of pertussis in infants

J Liu et al; <https://www.bmj.com/content/391/bmj.r2169>

“Tackling rising cases will require a coordinated approach.”

“Vaccination has reduced the global burden of pertussis (whooping cough), but the disease has recently resurged. ... Although the resurgence is global, a notable decline occurred in cases in the **African and South East Asia regions**. This could be partly attributed to the improved coverage of vaccination and gaps in surveillance reporting systems, as well as limited laboratory confirmation capacity and possible underdiagnosis of pertussis in these regions.....”

HHR - Conceptualizing the Child's Right to Oral Health: A Rights-Based Approach to Dental Caries

S D Mollet et al ; <https://www.hhrjournal.org/2025/10/10/conceptualizing-the-childs-right-to-oral-health-a-rights-based-approach-to-dental-caries/>

“Dental caries is the most common noncommunicable disease globally and is a substantial burden for both adults and children, yet it remains largely neglected. **The World Health Organization recognized the right to oral health in 2024. This paper introduces a comprehensive framework for children's right to oral health based on the provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child.** It demonstrates that although human rights treaties do not explicitly recognize the right to oral health, **oral health, and particularly dental caries, is a matter of human rights.** The first part of the paper clarifies how dental caries is a child rights matter, while the second part proposes a rights-based approach to the regulation of its risk factors.”

Plos GPH - “Crises are a perpetual restart”—A comparative analysis of maternal and newborn health political prioritization across four fragile and conflict affected settings

Mamothena Carol Mothup, Paul Spiegel et al (on behalf of the EQUAL Consortium); <https://journals.plos.org/globalpublichealth/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgph.0005288>

Re Somalia, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan.

Access to medicines & health technology

BMJ - The UK must defend drug price controls

Els Torreele & M McKee; <https://www.bmj.com/content/391/bmj.r2201>

“**Pharmaceutical pricing policies must prioritise patients and public interest over industry profits,** say Els Torreele and Martin McKee.”

“**Pharmaceutical companies are intensifying pressure on the UK government to relax the long standing drug pricing controls that underpin the NHS.** Their central demand is for higher prices on branded medicines. **This domestic dispute is unfolding within a broader international context, with US policies seeking to impose higher prices abroad, aggressive global pharmaceutical lobbying, and post-Brexit regulatory uncertainty.....**”

“The UK has sought to position itself as a global life sciences hub, but this ambition has also made it vulnerable to industry demands. **The UK must resist efforts to weaken price controls. It should instead reinforce a public interest driven pharmaceutical policy, working with its European neighbours, that protects the NHS's financial sustainability and ensures equitable access to affordable drugs.....**”

Stat - Roche suffers a fresh blow as India's Supreme Court allows generic sales of its pricey rare disease drug

<https://www.statnews.com/pharmalot/2025/10/19/india-supreme-court-roche-evrysdi-generic-natco-sma/>

“Natco Pharma can start selling a less expensive drug to combat spinal muscular atrophy.”

Journal of Global Health - Steps taken by the World Health Organization African Region Member States to standardise herbal medicines: a literature review

<https://jogh.org/2025/jogh-15-04265>

By Dennis Kithinji et al.

SS&M - Public sector innovation and the constraints of 'platform thinking': An account of Johnson & Johnson's adenoviral vector vaccines

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953625010184?via%3Dihub#appsec1>

By K Sariahmed et al.

Human resources for health

Daily Maverick - The gig economy: Video doctors on the frontlines of the Uberisation of healthcare

<https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2025-10-19-telemedicine-takes-lead-in-uberisation-of-healthcare/>

“The telemedicine revolution is changing the doctor's room with general practitioners working across multiple platforms – raising questions about quality of care, professional liability and the future of the doctor-patient relationship.”

- Related tweet Kalypso Chalkidou: “ Like Uber and Bolt, telemedicine platforms are creating a contractor workforce that carries all the risks of professional liability while the platforms provide infrastructure and take a cut of fees. Doctors gain flexibility but lose the institutional support and continuity that traditional employment provided.”

HSG (blog) - Task sharing and shifting: Can we move beyond effectiveness?

S Zadey; <https://healthsystemsglobal.org/news/task-sharing-and-shifting-can-we-move-beyond-effectiveness/>

“Task-sharing and shifting – The darling of global public health.”

Concluding: “Global public health owes this outlook of evidence generation and evidence-based policymaking centered around effectiveness and cost-effectiveness to individual-centric clinical medicine that originated in the “Western World” under the sociopolitical and ideological stronghold of capitalism. However, if TSS has to work systematically and sustainably in LMICs, the evidence-building enterprise must make room for research on the reality of health systems and the larger sociopolitical contexts.”

Decolonize Global Health

IJHPM - Quid Quo Pro? A Critical Perspective on the Global Flow and Spread of Health Innovation

R Mannion et al ; https://www.ijhpm.com/article_4802.html

« Over recent decades, the exchange of health innovations between high-income countries (HICs) and low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) has grown significantly. **Three main types of cross-border flows characterise this global health innovation ecosystem: (i) trickle-down innovation – where innovations originating in HICs gradually diffuse to LMICs, (ii) reverse innovation, where new solutions originating in LMICs are adopted and adapted in HICs, and (iii) reciprocal innovation – where the focus is on bidirectional exchange and learning between HICs and LMICs.** Despite embracing multidirectional flows, the **contemporary global health innovation ecosystem is fundamentally shaped by neocolonial power imbalances** that prevent LMICs from fully benefiting. These dynamics are further intensified by recent cuts to foreign aid and the rise of philanthrocapitalism, both of which concentrate power and influence in HICs. **Viewing health innovation through a neocolonial lens reveals how the current innovation ecosystem reinforces historical patterns of dependency and domination in global health.** »

Lancet Regional Health Western Pacific - Large language models and global health equity: a roadmap for equitable adoption in LMICs

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2666606525002469>

By H Chen et al.

Migration & Health

SS&M - Integrating healthcare financing for refugees into national health systems: Findings from a rapid review of the literature

Paola Bertone, S Witter et al;

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0277953625010275>

“The level of health financing integration varies along a spectrum; mixed arrangements are the norm. Integration reflects health financing arrangements of the national health system. Fund

pooling can be an entry point for integration, to avoid negative narratives and strengthen local health systems. Revenue raising can be leveraged strategically to support integration.”

Miscellaneous

Visual Capitalist - Ranked: The World's 20 Largest Labor Forces, by Country

<https://www.visualcapitalist.com/ranked-the-worlds-20-largest-labor-forces-by-country/>

“Asia dominates the global workforce, led by China and India, which together account for over 1.3 billion workers. The United States leads among developed economies, with a labor force exceeding 174 million people. The world's labor force—the total number of people either working or actively seeking work—reveals much about global demographics and economic potential.”

“This visualization ranks the largest labor forces by country, highlighting where most of the world's workers are located. The data for this graphic comes from the [World Bank](#)....”

Devex – Dependency to opportunity: Making cheap power work for poorer countries

<https://www.devex.com/news/dependency-to-opportunity-making-cheap-power-work-for-poorer-countries-111132>

“As renewables reshape global development, experts say the real prize for LMICs isn't mineral wealth but affordable energy — and the ability to use it to build industries, create jobs, and drive growth on their own terms.....”

Papers & reports

Lancet (Viewpoint) - Inclusion of women who are pregnant, lactating, or of reproductive potential in clinical trials: health, ethical, and regulatory considerations

L Moayad et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)01497-7/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)01497-7/abstract)

“Randomised controlled trials have commonly excluded women who are pregnant, lactating, or of reproductive potential. When there is clinical equipoise, the exclusion of these women raises concerns regarding the principles of autonomy, beneficence, and justice. This exclusion also shifts evidence generation from the monitored setting of randomised controlled trials to clinical settings, where data can take several years to accrue. Here, we highlight key health, ethical, scientific, and regulatory considerations surrounding the inclusion of women who are pregnant, lactating, or of reproductive potential in clinical trials to guide further discussions. We offer recommendations for a judicious approach to inclusivity, highlighting regulatory, sponsor, and clinical trial design

considerations. We highlight the need for patient engagement and interdisciplinary discourse throughout the research lifecycle.”

Lancet GH – Global, regional, and national sepsis incidence and mortality, 1990–2021: a systematic analysis

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(25\)00356-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(25)00356-0/fulltext)

Conclusion : “...**The global burden of sepsis increased in 2020 and 2021, reversing progress from 1990.** Sepsis incidence and mortality increased in people aged 15 years and older, especially those aged 70 years and older, and as a complication of non-infectious underlying causes of death such as stroke, primarily through bloodstream infections and lower respiratory infections. **The global burden of sepsis is substantial, and sepsis is increasingly a complication of non-infectious causes of death....**”

WHO - Advancing the responsible use of digital technologies in global health - A report of the WHO Science Council

<https://iris.who.int/server/api/core/bitstreams/0f03a263-fca7-49c6-81ad-cd2f9503951d/content>

“... Without concerted action, the lack of access to high-quality digital health services risks increasing health inequity within and between countries, exacerbating a divide between those who are connected to the digital ecosystem and those who are not. **The Science Council proposes that these obstacles be overcome by taking action in four key areas: connect, educate, invest and evaluate.....**”

WHO and partners refine global map of tools for assessing Science Advisory Systems

<https://www.who.int/news/item/22-10-2025-who-and-partners-refine-global-map-of-tools-for-assessing-science-advisory-systems>

“On 14 August 2025, WHO and the University of Antioquia’s Unit of Evidence and Deliberation for Decision Making (UNED) convened international experts to advance a new global Evidence and Gap Map (EGM) on science advisory systems. The consultation is part of a broader WHO initiative to help countries strengthen national science advice systems to enhance public health and contribute to economic growth. ...”

“... The EGM brings together tools and guidance for assessing national science advisory systems. It shows what resources are available, the areas they cover, and where important gaps remain. The map includes key WHO resources such as the [WHO Checklist for Institutionalizing Evidence-Informed Policy-making](#) and the [EVIPNet Situation Analysis Manual](#). By providing an overview of how evidence is used across sectors, the EGM helps governments evaluate their systems and strengthen the use of science in policy-making. “

Global Health Action - Optimizing social media influencers for health communication in Africa

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/16549716.2025.2572009#abstract>

by H Simba et al.

Health Economics, Policy & Law - Health system sustainability and resilience: a preliminary provision of measurement through a “mash-up” index

[Health Economics, Policy & Law](#) ;

By A McGuire et al.

Tweets (via X & Bluesky)

Nicholas Kristof

(tweet re his **NYT** column - [Trump Revives Foreign Aid, Helping Needy Billionaires](#))

“Trump slashed USAID so that children die for want of \$2 mosquito nets or 12-cent-a-day medicines--but **he now is backing a \$20 billion bailout of Argentina** that will **pour money into the pockets of billionaire hedge fund investors.**”

Jean Kaseya

“At #CPHIA2025 in Durban, I reaffirmed that Africa’s leadership is reshaping the global health architecture, not as a participant, but as a co-architect of a fairer, safer, and more self-reliant world.”