

PART 1: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section A: Introduction & Featured Articles

Newsletter Introduction (Kristof Decoster): Kristof Decoster opens newsletter #902 reflecting on his return from the World Health Summit (11–13 October 2026) in Berlin, themed '*From Crisis to Resilience*'. He highlights two concurrent global milestones: the annual IMF/World Bank meetings in Bangkok (12–18 October), taking place against a severe global economic backdrop summarized as 'Winter is coming', and the UN General Assembly's adoption of the political declaration on pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response (PPPR) on 12 October as a modest success for multilateralism.

Featured Article 1 (Merette Khalil) – '*Women's health takes center stage at WHS2026 but without the women at the center*': Merette Khalil critiques the growing commercialization and commodification of the women's health agenda. While the World Economic Forum highlighted a \$1 trillion opportunity in closing the women's health gap, investment remains narrowly focused—less than 2% of private healthcare capital targets women-specific conditions, with 90% concentrated in reproductive health and cancers. Highlighting White Ribbon Alliance's *Beyond the Sum of our (Body) Parts* campaign representing 1.2 million women and girls, Khalil emphasizes demands for holistic, person-centered care. Though notable commitments occurred at WHS2026—including Bangladesh's €250 million investment and a \$100 million Gates/Wellcome Leap stillbirth initiative—main panels were dominated by pharmaceutical firms, UN agencies, and physicians, while civil society and grassroots advocates were relegated to expensive side sessions.

Featured Article 2 (Antoine de Bengy Puyvallée) – '*In the belly of the beast: reflections from the World Health Summit 2026*': Antoine de Bengy Puyvallée reflects on his first WHS, observing the overpowering presence of private corporations setting global health priorities. Large delegations from the Gates Foundation (34 delegates), Wellcome (31), Bayer (23), Amazon (19), and Sanofi (17) paid exorbitant registration fees (€4,000 for industry) that effectively purchased influence and seats at panel tables. Puyvallée notes corporate reputation-laundering (e.g., TikTok hosting youth mental health panels) and industry pushing 'de-risking investments', multi-year funding guarantees, and strong IP protection—standing in sharp contrast to Global South demands like the Accra Reset for redistributing power.

Section B: Highlights Subsections Summary

1. Run-up to World Health Summit

Features Peter Piot and Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum's Virchow Prize lectures summarizing 50 years of Ebola research. A must-read analysis by Unni Karunakara critiques Germany for hosting WHS without a national global health strategy, a ministerial coordinator, or a WHO leadership candidate following Angela Merkel's departure.

2. WHS – Key news & reports

Highlights major announcements from Berlin, including Bangladesh's €250 million loan redirection to women's health, Wellcome's Global Monitor showing declining public trust in science post-COVID, and Gallup data on social media wellbeing. The landmark Lancet Commission on 21st Century Global Threats to Health (Prof. Christopher Murray et al.) identified 17 catastrophic interlinked threats evaluated by DALYs through 2100, sparking debate over its methodology regarding climate change vs. nuclear war and AI. Four WHO Director-General candidates debated global health reform, Gates and Wellcome Leap pledged \$100 million for stillbirth prevention, WHO's Pandemic Hub set a 24-hour outbreak detection goal by 2030, and the GPMB presented its 8-year final report.

3. WHS – Some additional snippets

Covers the WHO Hub's 5th anniversary and Hong Kong as host for WHS 2027. Features Devex interviews on regional vaccine manufacturing pooled procurement (Dr. Frederik Kristensen) and UNAIDS's future (Winnie Byanyima). Reports on Global Action on Men's Health's call for a WHO Global Prostate Cancer Initiative and the launch of Schmidt Global Health.

4. WHS – Some more analysis

Focuses on J. Ratevosian's commentary examining questions of power, governance reform, and technological innovation coming out of Berlin.

5. Ebola emergency

DRC's Ebola outbreak topped 9,000 cases (9,066 cases, 4,381 deaths), prompting phase 2/3 Tumaini adaptive platform trials for Bundibugyo vaccine candidates. Africa CDC Director-General Dr. Jean Kaseya cited contact tracing failures in DRC and Kenya, advocating for a 'village center approach'.

6. Adoption political declaration on PPPR

UN General Assembly adopted the PPPR political declaration by a vote of 153 to 3 (US, Israel, Argentina voting no; NZ, Paraguay abstaining). While calling for One Health and 100-day medical countermeasure access, the declaration lacks concrete targets, and EU nations added caveats rejecting mandatory technology transfers.

7. More on PPPR

Geneva Health Files analyzes how suspected pneumonia cases in Russia test International Health Regulations amidst geopolitical tensions. BMJ and Guardian articles explore biosecurity risks linked to AI biological design tools.

8. IMF/World Bank annual meetings (Bangkok)

Takes place amid economic strain, with 3.7 billion people living in countries where public debt interest exceeds health or education spending. The World Bank launched its first Philanthropy Forum and Hub, while a new 'Borrower's Platform' representing 31 countries formed to tackle debt servicing costs. Senegal became the test case for G20 Common Framework 2.0. Critical analyses from Eurodad, CESR, and Global Policy Forum expose the failure of the 'Billions to Trillions' private capital model, the omission of poverty from meeting agendas, and the \$1.7 billion burden of IMF surcharges on 12 developing nations.

9. More on the WHO DG race

Habib Benzian discusses member states' willingness to support an independent WHO chief, while Mukesh Kapila ranks past DGs, placing Halfdan Mahler at the top and Hiroshi Nakajima at the bottom.

10. More on global health reform

Spark Street and Nina Schwalbe review global health architecture reform, finding extensive consultations but no clear leader or funding commitment.

11. More on Global Health Governance & Finance/Funding

Reports 361 open sexual misconduct/abuse cases at WHO. Global Fund considers a \$2–3 billion Malaria Impact Accelerator (MIA) with GiveWell. UNAIDS faces leadership uncertainty as Winnie Byanyima prepares to exit. P4H demonstrates MDB hybrid capital and SDRs could unlock \$162 billion for health. PLOS GPH finds only South Africa met the 15% Abuja Declaration benchmark in 2023. GPEI faces a 30% polio budget cut, while CGD reveals remittances (\$695 billion) dwarf global ODA (\$96 billion).

12. Future of Development Cooperation

OECD DAC's 70th anniversary leads Sumner & Klingebiel to outline four scenarios for 'mutual interest' in aid. ONE Data, Google, and Rockefeller Foundation launch the Development Finance Observatory to address \$1–2 trillion in annual spending inefficiencies.

13. Global Tax justice

Third World Network highlights intergovernmental UN tax negotiations aimed at curbing corporate tax avoidance and ensuring revenue rights for Global South nations.

14. Trump 2.0, US Global Health Strategy & bilateral health agreements

Inspector General finds major guidance flaws in USAID regionalization plans. A \$5 billion US-Nigeria health deal faces public scrutiny after Ghana rejected a similar agreement over data privacy.

15. Health Transitions, Integrated care, ...

Devex covers WHO's landmark resolution urging countries to leverage TB infrastructure to establish integrated chronic respiratory care across Africa.

16. World Mental Health Day (10 Oct) & other mental health news

WHO releases guidance urging a global shift from institutional psychiatric hospitalization to rights-based, community care.

17. More on NCDs

Lancet Health Policy presents a global roadmap for osteoarthritis prevention and care ahead of World Arthritis Awareness Day.

18. Determinants of Health

Research in *Globalization and Health* explores embedding the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) into global health governance to address structural determinants and migration health.

19. Planetary Health & environmental determinants of health

IPCC faces an unprecedented deadlock as petro-states push to delay the AR7 climate report past COP33. Scorecard ranks Colombia #1 for health in NDCs. Germany pushes back against LDC requests for dedicated health climate finance at WHS ahead of COP31. WHO warns lead exposure affects 800 million children, and Deep Science Ventures finds mineral levels in vegetables have halved over 60 years due to soil degradation.

20. More on SRHR

PMNCH and IDRC launch a policy brief on closing the financing gap for adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights (ASRHR).

21. Access to Medicines, Vaccines & other health technologies

Facing Gavi funding shortfalls, WHO SAGE recommends stretching vaccine supplies via single-dose HPV schedules up to age 30. Controversial newborn Hepatitis B trial in Guinea-Bissau sparks ethics resignations. Global Policy introduces 'diagnostic sovereignty', and Lauren Paremoer examines African medical manufacturing.

22. Miscellaneous

Global Multidimensional Poverty Index updates show poverty rose to 1.2 billion people (51.5M increase, over half children). Lancet letter urges youth political participation. UN proposes a reduced \$3.3 billion budget for 2027. Lant Pritchett argues narrowing aid focus committed 'political suicide'.

PART 2: 30 KEY READS OF THE WEEK

#	Title & Key Takeaway Summary	First Author & Publication
1	50 years of Ebola research and response <i>Transcripts of 2026 Virchow Prize Lectures reviewing 50 years of Ebola scientific research.</i>	Peter Piot & Jean-Jacques Muyembe-Tamfum The Lancet
2	Germany Hosts WHS, But Has No Plan for World's Health [Must-Read] <i>Critiques host Germany for lacking a global health strategy or candidate post-Merkel.</i>	Unni Karunakara Health Policy Watch
3	Lancet Commission on 21st century global threats to health <i>Prioritizes 17 catastrophic global threats via DALY projections through 2100.</i>	Christopher J L Murray et al. The Lancet
4	Is the World Ending? A Lancet Commission Says Maybe [Must-Read] <i>Examines criticisms on how climate threats were categorized alongside risk factors.</i>	Health Policy Watch Health Policy Watch
5	Prostate Cancer: Time for a New Global Initiative <i>Urges WHO to launch a Global Prostate Cancer Initiative as cases approach 3M by 2040.</i>	Global Action on Men's Health GAMH Policy Report
6	Eric & Wendy Schmidt Announce Global Public Health Nonprofit <i>Unveils non-profit dedicated to enhancing disease surveillance via data analytics.</i>	Schmidt Global Health Schmidt Global Health News
7	Is Global Health Keeping Up? <i>Analyzes power shifts, governance reform, and tech innovation post-WHS 2026.</i>	J. Ratevosian Substack
8	Ebola cases top 9,000 in DR Congo outbreak <i>DRC outbreak surpasses 9,000 cases as phase 2/3 vaccine trials prepare to launch.</i>	CIDRAP News CIDRAP
9	Kenya Ebola case exposes contact tracing failures <i>Africa CDC warns community transmission drives Ebola outbreak due to contact tracing gaps.</i>	Rumbi Chakamba Devex
10	WHO welcomes adoption of UN political declaration on PPPR <i>Welcomes UN General Assembly adoption of political declaration for pandemic response.</i>	World Health Organization WHO News
11	With Only Three 'No' Votes, UN Adopts PPPR Declaration [Must-Read] <i>Analyzes voting dynamics and EU caveats rejecting mandatory tech transfers.</i>	Health Policy Watch Health Policy Watch
12	Pneumonia Cases in Russia Test International Health Regulations <i>Investigates respiratory disease reports in Russia testing IHR compliance.</i>	Priti Patnaik Geneva Health Files
13	AI bioweapons: how real is the threat? <i>Evaluates whether AI design tools lower technical barriers for bioweapons.</i>	The BMJ The BMJ
14	Deafening Silence on the Poor in IMF-World Bank Meetings <i>Notes only 1 of 174 IMF-WB Bangkok events explicitly mentioned poverty in its title.</i>	P. Schellekens Moving Frontiers
15	The Real Cost of Debt <i>Shows Global South debt servicing doubled to \$400B, squeezing public health budgets.</i>	I. Fresnillo Eurodad
16	Selecting Next WHO Director-General: Learning from Predecessors <i>Ranks 8 previous WHO DGs to derive lessons for the upcoming May 2027 selection.</i>	Mukesh Kapila Health Policy Watch
17	Is global health architecture reform progressing? <i>Finds extensive global health architecture consultations but zero funding commitments.</i>	Nina Schwalbe Spark Street
18	From billions to balance sheets: MDB capital for health [Must-Read] <i>Explains how MDBs can unlock \$162B for health via hybrid capital and SDRs.</i>	Kalipso Chalkidou & Rahul Singhal P4H Blog
19	Beyond aspiration: Evaluation of Abuja Declaration progress <i>Reveals South Africa was sole AU state meeting 15% Abuja benchmark in 2023.</i>	Alex Olateju Adjagba et al. PLOS Global Public Health
20	OECD DAC at 70: Who defines 'Mutual Interest'? <i>Outlines four scenarios for the future of aid and 0.7% donor targets.</i>	Andy Sumner & Steffen Klingebiel Policy Brief
21	Is it possible to rewire the development finance system? <i>Launches Development Finance Observatory to target \$1-2T spending inefficiencies.</i>	ONE Data & David McNair The Insider

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22	What is at stake in the UN tax negotiations <i>Details negotiations for a UN Tax Convention curbing corporate tax avoidance.</i>	Manuel F. Montes Third World Network
23	Nigeria-US health deal under scrutiny <i>Examines public opposition to a \$5B US-Nigeria health deal over data privacy.</i>	Daily Trust Daily Trust
24	Africa wants to transform lung care. Can TB show the way? <i>Explores WHO resolution leveraging TB infrastructure for chronic respiratory care.</i>	Rumbi Chakamba Devex
25	Shift from institutional to community-based mental health care <i>Urges shifting from psychiatric hospitalization to rights-based community care.</i>	World Health Organization WHO News
26	Health systems roadmap for osteoarthritis care and prevention <i>Outlines policy roadmap integrating osteoarthritis prevention into primary care.</i>	Andrew M Briggs et al. The Lancet
27	Integrating social & solidarity economy into global health <i>Explores embedding Social and Solidarity Economy into global health governance.</i>	M Fujita et al. Globalization and Health
28	Scorecard: Colombia Gets Top Marks for Health in NDCs <i>Ranks Colombia first globally for integrating health goals into climate policy.</i>	Global Climate and Health Alliance GCHA Press Release
29	Stretching Vaccine Supplies in Face of Dwindling Budgets <i>Summarizes SAGE recommendations on single-dose HPV schedules amid budget cuts.</i>	Health Policy Watch Health Policy Watch
30	Rise in poverty is a 'wake-up call for the world' <i>2026 Multidimensional Poverty Index shows global poverty rose to 1.2B people.</i>	UN News UN News