IHP news 908 – Weekly Summary & 30 Key Reads

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Part 1 – Introduction and Featured Article

Editorial: "Paris Manifesto & CPHIA 2026 in Addis"

Kristof Decoster opens with the week's chronology. As COP31 ended disappointingly in Antalya, a manifesto against the international oligarchy was launched in Paris. It states that the explosion of extreme wealth is the major social fact of our time and that billionaires threaten democracies. Decoster urges the global health community, still busy reforming, to start its analysis there: a billionaire-dominated economy differs fundamentally from a few philanthropists, and social contracts are eroding as the implicit meritocratic bargain proves false, especially for younger generations (with AI not helping). A WHO webinar on the Ottawa Charter at 40 featured Ilona Kickbusch and Olivier de Schutter, who presented his roadmap for eradicating poverty "beyond growth" and warned of a "burnout economy". Tax justice is a key battlefield, with the UN Tax Convention heading to Nairobi (30 Nov–10 Dec). The main highlight was CPHIA 2026 in Addis (30,000 participants; theme of health security and sovereignty), where Africa CDC's Governing Board will finalise its leadership assessment of Jean Kaseya by mid-December and the seven WHO DG candidates pitched to African ministers. Other items: Andrew Harmer's blog on the Geneva candidates' forum (with his "final three" prediction), the new UNAIDS report ahead of World AIDS Day, the start of the 16 Days of Activism, and the arrival of generic lenacapavir in Africa.

Featured article: "When Murder Gets a 'Reason': Femicide and the Language of Blame in Cameroon" (Relindis Ma-gang Tapang)

Triggered by the death of teacher Geraldine Achiah, allegedly beaten by her husband, the article notes that nearly 70 women were killed for gender-related reasons in Cameroon in 2026, yet femicide is not a separate crime and no register counts it. Influencers and columnists blame victims (infidelity, money, "deviant behaviour"), but the evidence points to patriarchal norms, alcohol, economic stress and above all impunity; women make up 82% of people killed by intimate partners worldwide, and leaving a violent partner is a trigger for lethal violence. About 32% of women in sub-Saharan Africa experience partner violence. Four needed changes: police reform and specialised units, equality in the long-stalled Family Code, a national femicide register, and education for equality – with accountability resting on perpetrators and failing institutions.

Part 2 – Summary of the Highlights of the Week

New UNAIDS report (& other HIV updates)

The report *Ending AIDS Starts with Access* warns that dismantled prevention programmes, closed community services and anti-rights campaigns threaten decades of progress. About 41 million people live with HIV (32.1 million on treatment); ~570,000 AIDS-related deaths in 2025 (600,000 in 2024; 1.3 million in 2010); 1.2 million new infections. HIV resources in LMICs fell by over US$1 billion in 2025 (international financing –18%, US –26%, Global Fund disbursements –13%), leaving a US$4.3 billion annual gap, while debt service in many countries exceeds health spending two- or threefold. UNAIDS says the worst may still be ahead, but ending AIDS by 2030 could avert 3.2 million infections and 1.3 million deaths. A *Nature* editorial urges funders to seize the moment, with generic lenacapavir approved and an HIV vaccine (broadly neutralising antibodies) on the horizon.

CPHIA in Addis (& other Africa CDC related updates)

The 5th International Conference on Public Health in Africa (23–27 Nov, co-hosted by Africa CDC and Ethiopia) focused on moving from dependency to ownership. Africa CDC's new Governing Board (chair: Uganda; vice-chair: Namibia) requested additional documentation and will reconvene before 15 December on its recommendation on Kaseya, whose term ends in February; HPW reported the board was initially unable to agree on reappointment. Highlights: the AU Champions' Roadmap on reproductive, maternal and child health ("Three Zeros"); Kaseya's "Who names us, and who decides for us?"; daily themes on outbreak readiness and on Africa financing its own health; the Africa Health Atlas and Knowledge Hub (with EPHI and IHME); the DG candidates' session; South Africa's Motsoaledi calling for purchasing commitments behind local manufacturing; and sessions on global health architecture reform and transitions. Africa CDC's adolescent health report found that 16.5% of pregnancies are among girls aged 10–19 (24.2% in Southern Africa) and only 12.9% of facilities offer youth-friendly services. RVMC launched a five-year, US$35 million regional vaccine manufacturing strategy.

Ebola emergency

Six months into the Bundibugyo Ebola outbreak in DR Congo, reports from Africa CDC and WHO show transmission still running ahead of the response: only 11% of confirmed cases came from contact lists (target 95%), and WHO has confirmed 87 attacks on health workers and facilities this year. CEPI's Hatchett sees a possible vaccine breakthrough in early 2027 from three trials, if security allows enrolment. Gavi plans to buy up to 1.5 million doses of the Oxford/Serum Institute candidate, conditional on trial results (Els Torreele asks at what price). Reuters reports bleeding in only 5–10% of cases, ~70% of patients dying in communities, high child mortality (844 deaths among 1,207 confirmed cases under five) and satellite-based evidence of a major death undercount in Bunia. UNICEF released first findings on violence against women and girls during the outbreak; Uganda and South Sudan have stepped up preparedness.

More on PPPR & GHS

A *Globalization & Health* thematic synthesis examines where subsidiarity meets the regional level in pandemic governance, identifying three themes: integrating regional actors, shifting decision authority and accountability to regions, and regional functions in financing, surveillance, countermeasures and workforce. In *Think Global Health*, former Nigeria CDC head Ifedayo Adetifa calls for better communication, funding and trust between African countries, drawing lessons from the animal health sector.

AMR

A *BMJ* editorial argues that the AMR innovation ecosystem is fragile because sales-volume models clash with the need to preserve antibiotic effectiveness. Push (CARB-X, GARDP) and pull incentives are needed, yet pull schemes under consideration in the G7 would raise only about US$100 million over five years, versus an estimated US$4.2 billion per antibiotic over ten years for a global subscription. Options include pooled multinational funding, preferential procurement and fiscal incentives; LMIC access to first-line antibiotics remains the more urgent priority, and funding should not rest on health ministries alone.

COP31: Final analysis

COP31 ended after a record 44 hours of overtime without an overarching decision, for the first time since 2000, after petrostates demanded removal of fossil fuel references and the EU, UK, Norway, Panama, the Marshall Islands and small island states rejected the co-presidencies' compromise; unresolved items roll over to COP32 in Addis Ababa (Nov 2027). Analyses diverge: Kevin Anderson stresses fossil-fuel interests embedded in the COP system; PIK's Rockström and Edenhofer highlight the consensus rule; ODI sees a wake-up call, noting that Antalya differs from Copenhagen and the Action Agenda can bypass blockers; Boyce argues national action

need not await agreements; *The New Humanitarian* questions the "failure" framing; and *Nature* reports growing interest in "net negative" targets (the GONE group, co-chaired by Denmark and Ethiopia).

WHO DG race

Geneva Health Files (Priti Patnaik) finds the candidates' forum was a public reflection on WHO's future; answers often lacked specifics, developing countries pressed on pooled procurement, manufacturing and regulation, donors on reform, finance and SRHR, and realpolitik may favour a not-strongest candidate. Andrew Harmer's irreverent blog predicts Sadikin, Balkhy and Al-Kuwari as top three. A coalition of 300+ organisations (Fòs Feminista, CRR, PAI) asks all seven candidates for concrete commitments on women's, children's and adolescents' health and rights, and a *JAMA* Viewpoint (Saad Omer) calls for a coherent science strategy.

Global Health Reform

The WHO-hosted Joint Task Force on global health architecture is preparing its first blueprint, but its mandate excludes revising organisational mandates or recommending mergers; Bruce Aylward said the UNFPA–UN Women merger is not going ahead and UNAIDS will continue, while incoming Global Fund head Mark Dybul rejects Geneva mergers with Gavi. Civil society warns that tweaks ignore the funding collapse and power imbalances; a *BMJ* editorial asks whether inequity is baked into the architecture. Global Policy Forum notes the interim report goes to the WHO Executive Board in January 2027, covers G2H2's four demands, and highlights apparent divergence between Germany's BMZ and BMG.

Future of development cooperation (& post-2030 brainstorm)

Klingebiel and Sumner (UNU-WIDER) show the 0.7% ODA target is losing significance, with some donors aiming to fall below it, and propose country-level gap estimates, wider burden-sharing, tighter ODA definitions and keeping the target for accountability. CGD's Madrid Development Leaders Conference summary finds agencies making cuts rather than strategic choices. HPW reports that off-track nutrition targets and fragmented funding (330+ vertical initiatives) are driving a SUN Movement/University of Geneva white paper to make nutrition a post-2030 pillar.

Global Tax justice

The sixth session of the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation takes place in Nairobi (30 Nov–10 Dec) on a revised 16 November draft that leaves key questions open (CESR). Thomas Piketty calls the talks potentially the most significant since Rio. The Tax Justice Network estimates US$394 billion more tax a year if profit shifting is made obsolete, yet the UK (+£31bn) and EU (+€85bn), as biggest winners, remain opposed. An ODI briefing finds that Pillar Two revenues now depend more on incentive design (the SBTI safe harbour) than on the exclusion of US multinationals.

More on Global Health Governance

Geneva Health Files published a gated in-depth report on Gavi's funding crisis and vaccine politics. A UNU policy brief identifies five levers for operationalising African health sovereignty, aligning Africa CDC pooled procurement, the African Medicines Agency and AfCFTA. A *BMJ* opinion flags that Canada's federal budget, for the first time in at least 15 years, made no mention of international development or global health. *Health and Human Rights* interviews new UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, Mariângela Simão, on her priorities.

More on Global Health Funding & Financing

Global Health Advocates and 27 partners analyse Costa's "negobox" for the EU's 2028–2034 budget, ahead of the 26–27 November European Council. CGD warns a big IDA22 would drain

future replenishments: with falling donor grants and higher borrowing costs, a US$100 billion envelope may be sustainable only at about US$59–61 billion. Bond/BWP find the World Bank treats gender as a niche while pursuing gender-neutral economic policy; an OECD/Gates blog asks who will finance global health; and the OECD and AU say Africa can borrow its way to lower debt if funds boost growth.

UHC & NCDs

Ertila Druga argues that in many LMICs UHC has been built as an "acute system for a chronic epidemic", through episodic financing, snapshot metrics and commercial displacement, and draws implications for the 2027 UN High-Level Meeting on UHC.

Trump 2.0, US Global Health Strategy, bilateral health agreements & new Democrat Congress

The Trump administration republished USAID files (1.1 GB) to argue the agency was "weaponized"; critics, including Samantha Power, call it a context-free hodge-podge, and Aid on the Hill warns about unredacted names. Think Global Health's tracker covers 36 "America First" MOUs with widely varying cofinancing and expected declines in combined health co-investment. Semafor reports State will bypass Democratic holds to release over US$170 million to Kenya, Malawi and Uganda; Emily Bass examines what Tanzania obtained; and CGD sets out five options for a post-USAID architecture.

More on country transitions and integration

HPW (Paul Adepoju) examines polio transition: African ministers adopted a ten-year framework in August, 32 of 47 countries have begun integrating functions, but GPEI's 2026 budget was cut 30% and its 2027 operating budget is about US$78 million, while polio remains a PHEIC. A *PLOS GPH* scoping review of USAID/PEPFAR withdrawal proposes an HIV Transition Justice Framework with six tests, from continuity to sovereignty.

Run-up to HSR Cairo

The 9th Global Symposium on HSR runs 7–9 December in Cairo; the 10th Emerging Voices cohort has begun face-to-face training. A SHAPES blog on speaking truth to power stresses clarity about costs, precision over performance, collective courage and consistency towards local power.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women & 16 Days of Activism

UNODC and UN Women's Femicide Brief reports 47,000 women and girls killed by partners or family members in 2025 (five per hour; 60% of 78,000 intentional killings of women), while only 7% of women experiencing violence report to police. WHO's 16 Days page (theme "Ensure justice, protect survivors, end impunity") highlights that almost 1 in 3 girls aged 15–19 (about 43 million) have experienced physical or sexual violence.

More on SRHR & Women's Health

A *BMJ Global Health* commentary presents the compendium on respectful maternal and newborn care, moving from principles to action.

Commercial determinants of health

A *WHO Bulletin* paper (Abba-Aji, Galea et al.) applies the commercial determinants lens to the arms industry, identifying features that set it apart (sovereign immunity, demand generated by instability, fragmented oversight) and five interventions, including transparency, health impact assessment of arms transfers and WHO technical leadership.

Human Resources for Health

Daniel Krugman recounts “protest epidemiology”: young Nairobi public health workers who used their tools during the 2024 and 2025 Finance Bill uprisings to document state violence, and asks what public health owes populations when governments act against their health.

More on Planetary Health (/Climate & health)

The *Guardian* reports six consecutive days 2°C above pre-industrial levels, with a record 2.24°C on Monday. A *Lancet Regional Health – Africa* commentary argues the Lancet Commission’s climate-health estimate omits pathways most consequential for Africa.

Digital health

A *Lancet Regional Health – Africa* analysis of 41 documents finds African digital health strategies invoke sovereignty without enforceable provisions on standards, architecture approval, procurement, hosting and stewardship, and proposes ten provisions for the 2028–2033 global digital health agenda.

Conflict/War & health

An Oxfam/CEOBS report finds that Gaza’s destruction has created widespread toxic contamination threatening health for generations. Tedros, visiting Cuba, called on the US to lift its fuel blockade, with WHO providing US$2 million via PAHO for childhood vaccination plus medicines.

Access to medicines, vaccines & other health technologies

Generic lenacapavir reached Zambia via the Global Fund and CHAI (10,000 vials, US$40 per person-year), with Uganda next and Zimbabwe in early 2027; the drug is already in 10 African countries (189,000 first doses). Fiocruz wants product development partnerships with Big Pharma, Malawi’s essential medicine availability has fallen to 40% amid a forex crisis, a *Nature* comment proposes mission-driven public–private partnerships, and Wemos argues regional production must be driven by access goals.

Some more reports

WHO’s Health Inequality Monitoring Atlas maps capacities in 161 countries: 89% report commitments to address inequalities in national plans, but gaps remain in governance, data and analysis (with a related *Lancet* comment).

Miscellaneous

LSHTM-led research presented at ASTMH estimates a 34-fold rise in global dengue incidence from 1990 to 2024, with outbreaks increasingly synchronised and possibly 390 million infections annually.

Part 3 – The 30 Key Reads of the Week

Selection criteria: at least one read per subsection (two where possible), first reads of each subsection, and items flagged by the editor as "recommended", "important" or similar. Where the newsletter gave no author, the publishing organisation is shown. Items marked "Editor-flagged" were highlighted as recommended/important in the newsletter.

1 HIV
Decades of HIV progress are threatened by barriers to access
UNAIDS (press release)
New UNAIDS report shows prevention and community services dismantled and a US$4.3 billion annual funding gap.
https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2026/november/20261124_PR_GAU26_report

2 CPHIA / AFRICA CDC
Statement of the Governing Board of Africa CDC
Africa CDC
Board postpones its Kaseya performance recommendation to before 15 December.
https://africacdc.org/news-item/statement-of-the-governing-board-of-the-africa-centres-for-disease-control-and-prevention-africa-cdc/

3 EBOLA
Ebola in DR Congo at 6 months: Rampant spread, new waves of violence
CIDRAP News
Only 11% of cases came from contact lists as violence hampers the response.
https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/ebola/ebola-dr-congo-6-months-rampant-spread-new-waves-violence

4 PPPR & GHS
Where does subsidiarity meet the role of regions in pandemic governance?
A. Rahman-Shepherd et al., Globalization & Health
Thematic synthesis on shifting authority and functions to regions in pandemic governance.
https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s12992-026-01252-6

5 AMR
Capturing the value of antimicrobial resistance innovation
N. Zhu et al., BMJ (editorial)
Calls for financing architectures that reward AMR innovation and sustain access.
https://www.bmj.com/content/395/bmj-2026-101501

6 COP31
COP31 Climate Summit that Could Not Say 'Fossil Fuels' Ends with No Deal
Health Policy Watch
Report on the failed Antalya outcome and carry-over of items to COP32.
https://healthpolicy-watch.news/cop31-consensus-collapse-at-climate-summit/

7 COP31
Finance, fossil fuels and the 'overshoot': six key takeaways from Cop31
The Guardian
Editor-flagged: recommended analysis of a fractious summit that needed wider consensus and astute handling.
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/nov/22/finance-fossil-fuels-overshoot-six-key-takeaways-cop31

8 WHO DG RACE
The Political Economy of the DG Election at WHO: Updates from the First Candidates' Forum
P. Patnaik, Geneva Health Files
Insightful analysis of what the forum revealed about power and priorities among member states.
https://newsletter.genevahealthfiles.com/the-political-economy-of-the-dg-election-at-the-world-health-organization-updates-from-the-first-candidates-forum/

9 WHO DG RACE
Six candidates in search of an Organisation
A. Harmer, andrewharmer.org (blog)
Irreverent candidate-by-candidate reflections with a prediction for the final three.
https://andrewharmer.org/2026/11/24/six-candidates-in-search-of-an-organisation/

10 GLOBAL HEALTH REFORM
Global Health Architecture: Cautious Steps and Aid Collapse Spark Pushback From the Frontline
Health Policy Watch
Civil society warns the Task Force's limited remit ignores funding collapse and power imbalances.
https://healthpolicy-watch.news/global-health-architecture-reform/

11 GLOBAL HEALTH REFORM
Inequity is baked into global health architecture: should we dismantle it?
T. Doherty, M. Tomlinson et al., BMJ (editorial)
Argues current reform efforts risk reinforcing inequities (BMJ 'Geopolitics of global health' series).
https://www.bmj.com/content/395/bmj-2026-101539

12 FUTURE OF DEV. COOPERATION
Reaffirmed at the UN, cut in Berlin, London and Paris: The 0.7% Target and the G7
S. Klingebiel & A. Sumner, Global Policy
A policy norm in retreat, with four proposals to reinvigorate the aid target.
https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/25/11/2026/reaffirmed-un-cut-berlin-london-and-paris07-target-and-g7

13 GLOBAL TAX JUSTICE
The UN Tax Convention heads to Nairobi: what the latest draft reveals
CESR
Stock-take of State submissions and the revised draft ahead of the sixth negotiating session.
https://www.cesr.org/the-un-tax-convention-heads-to-nairobi-what-the-latest-draft-reveals-about-the-battle-for-tax-justice/

14 GLOBAL TAX JUSTICE
Toward a political revolution at the United Nations (Le Monde column)
T. Piketty, thomaspiketty.wordpress.com
Argues the UN tax convention could prove the most significant treaty since Rio.
https://thomaspiketty.wordpress.com/2026/11/24/toward-a-political-revolution-at-the-united-nations/

15 GLOBAL HEALTH GOVERNANCE
Gavi at Crossroads: Funding Crisis, Vaccine Politics & the Future of Immunisation
S. Thakur, Geneva Health Files (gated)
Two-part in-depth report on the squeeze on global immunisation financing.
https://newsletter.genevahealthfiles.com/gavi-at-crossroads-funding-crisis-vaccine-politics-the-future-of-immunisation/

16 FUNDING & FINANCING
A Big IDA22 Risks Shortchanging Future Replenishments
C. Kenny et al., CGD (blog)
Editor-flagged: technical but important: a bigger IDA22 shrinks the capacity of later rounds.
https://www.cgdev.org/blog/big-ida22-risks-shortchanging-future-replenishments

17 UHC & NCDS
An acute system for a chronic epidemic: NCDs and the limits of UHC
E. Druga, LinkedIn
Argues UHC design is mismatched to chronic disease, with lessons for the 2027 UN HLM.
https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/acute-system-chronic-epidemic-noncommunicable-limits-health-ertila-c1afe/

18 TRUMP 2.0 / US
USAID files go public, igniting a firestorm over disinformation work
Devex
Administration publishes 1.1 GB of agency files; critics call it context-free and risky for staff.
https://www.devex.com/news/usaid-files-go-public-igniting-a-firestorm-over-disinformation-work-113981

19 COUNTRY TRANSITIONS
The Fight to Save What Polio Eradication Built
P. Adepoju, Health Policy Watch
Editor-flagged: recommended read on preserving polio functions as GPEI funding falls.
https://healthpolicy-watch.news/fight-to-save-what-polio-eradication-built/

20 RUN-UP TO HSR CAIRO
Daring to be brave: how to speak truth to power
I. Ebiri-Okoro, Health Systems Global (SHAPES blog)
Editor-flagged: “important blog for our times” on principled truth-telling.
https://healthsystemsglobal.org/news/daring-to-be-brave-how-to-speak-truth-to-power/

21 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
Five women killed every hour by partners or family members
UN News
UNODC/UN Women figures: 47,000 women and girls killed by intimates or relatives in 2025.
https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/11/1168863

22 SRHR & WOMEN’S HEALTH
The compendium on respectful maternal and newborn care: from principles to action
H. Mehrtash et al., BMJ Global Health
Commentary translating respectful care principles into practice.
https://gh.bmj.com/content/11/11/e024259

23 COMMERCIAL DETERMINANTS
The global arms industry and commercial determinants of armed conflict
M. Abba-Aji, S. Galea et al., WHO Bulletin
Applies the commercial determinants lens to the arms industry (URL not given in newsletter).

24 HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH
Public Health Against the State
D. Krugman, Science for the People
Story of Nairobi’s “protest epidemiologists” during the Finance Bill uprisings.
https://magazine.scienceforthepeople.org/vol27-3-public-health/public-health-against-the-state/

25 PLANETARY HEALTH
World has six consecutive days 2C above preindustrial levels for first time
The Guardian
Record daily global temperature of 2.24C above baseline, with the streak forecast to continue.
https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2026/nov/25/world-six-consecutive-days-2c-above-preindustrial-levels-first-time

26 DIGITAL HEALTH
Sovereignty without architecture? African digital health strategies
A. Osborne et al., Lancet Regional Health – Africa
Strategies invoke digital sovereignty but rarely contain enforceable provisions.
https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanafr/article/PIIS3050-5011(26)00180-X/fulltext

27 CONFLICT/WAR & HEALTH

Israel's destruction of Gaza has created a 'toxic wasteland', experts find

The Guardian (Oxfam/CEOBS report)

Widespread contamination poses grave health threats for generations.

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2026/nov/23/israel-gaza-destruction-created-toxic-wasteland-oxfam-report

28 ACCESS TO MEDICINES

Low-cost, generic HIV prevention injection arrives in Africa

A. Green, Devex

First generic lenacapavir deliveries reach Zambia via Global Fund and CHAI.

https://www.devex.com/news/low-cost-generic-hiv-prevention-injection-arrives-in-africa-113978

29 MORE REPORTS

Health inequality monitoring atlas

WHO (report)

First global mapping of health inequality monitoring capacities across 161 countries.

https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240125032

30 MISCELLANEOUS

Researchers estimate 34-fold rise in global dengue cases in past 35 years

CIDRAP News

Dengue incidence up 34-fold since 1990, with the true burden possibly far higher.

https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/dengue/researchers-estimate-34-fold-rise-global-dengue-cases-past-35-years

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