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You can download **previous (2006/2007) issues** of this newsletter at:
<http://groups.google.com/group/health-education-social-protection-news-notes?hl=en>

We encourage you to share the newsletter with your friends & colleagues.

BACKUP News No 2 - December '07



9 pp. 185 kB:

<http://groups.google.com/group/health-education-social-protection-news-notes/web/backup-newsletter-200712.pdf?hl=en>

The BACKUP Initiative helps partner countries to take advantage of the opportunities provided by global financing mechanisms such as the Global Fund. BACKUP stands for “Building Alliances - Creating Knowledge - Updating Partners” - responding to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria and strengthening health systems. The BACKUP Newsletter offers you a concise and regular update on recent developments within the BACKUP Initiative management, response to technical support needs, thematic areas as well as upcoming events related to global health financing.

BOOKS

HIV Medicine 2007

15th Edition

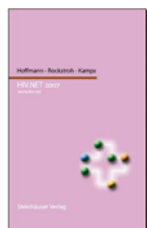
Edited by Christian Hoffmann, Jürgen K. Rockstroh and Bernd Sebastian Kamps

Flying Publisher, December 2007; ISBN: 3-924774-59-5



818 pp. 3.7 MB:

<http://www.hivmedicine.com/hivmedicine2007.pdf>

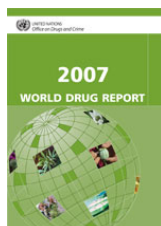


HIV Medicine 2007 is a medical textbook that provides a comprehensive and up-to-date overview of the treatment of HIV infection and its complications. As in previous years, all chapters have been thoroughly revised, and most parts of the book were available on the Internet (<http://www.HIVMedicine.com>) months before they were printed. The editors firmly believe that that is the way medical textbooks should be handled in the 21st century.

For a German language version see: <http://www.hiv.net/2010/buch.htm>

* * *

2007 World Drug Report



by Sandeep Chawla and Thibault le Pichon

United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, 2007; ISBN 978-92-1-148222-5



282 pp. 7.45 MB:

http://www.unodc.org/pdf/research/wdr07/WDR_2007.pdf

For other language versions (Español, Français) and multimedia files see: <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR-2007.html>

The World Drug Report presents the most comprehensive statistical view of today's illicit drug situation. The overall trend masks contrasting regional situations, which the report examines in detail. As we witness successes in some areas, challenges appear in others. Although drug abuse levels are stabilizing globally, countries along major and new trafficking routes, such as those now going through Africa may face increasing levels of drug consumption.

* * *

Bugs & Drugs



Edited by Edith Blondel-Hill and Susan Fryters
Capital Health, Edmonton AB, Canada, 2006



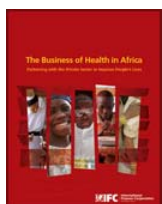
536 pp. 5.2 MB:

http://www.bugsanddrugs.ca/bugs_drugs_website/web-content/COMBINED_BandD2006_certified.pdf

With this book the authors have attempted to provide physicians, pharmacists, and other health care professionals with sound recommendations for appropriate antibiotic use and care of patients with infectious diseases. Recommendations made in this book are based on their experience in infectious diseases, microbiology, and pharmacotherapy; an extensive review of the literature, and consultation with multiple specialists.

* * *

The Business of Health in Africa: Partnering with the Private Sector to Improve People's Lives



International Finance Corporation (IFC) - A World Bank Group, December 2007



154 pp. 5.6 MB:

[http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/healthinafrica.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/IFC_HealthinAfrica_Final/\\$FILE/IFC_HealthinAfrica_Final.pdf](http://www.ifc.org/ifcext/healthinafrica.nsf/AttachmentsByTitle/IFC_HealthinAfrica_Final/$FILE/IFC_HealthinAfrica_Final.pdf)

The report finds that the private sector already delivers about half of Africa's health products and services. It calls for a close partnership between the public and private sectors, including improvements to regulatory oversight of private health care, and outlines ways that the private sector could be better engaged to improve its sustainability. Rather than serving only the rich, in Africa today the private sector is sometimes the only option for health care in many rural areas and poor urban slums.

* * *

Monitoring Child Well-Being - A South African rights-based approach

Andrew Dawes, Rachel Bray, Amelia van der Merwe (eds.)
Human Sciences Research Council Press, Cape Town 2007
ISBN: 978-0-7969-2177-2, Price: ZAR 280.00



688 pp. 2.7 MB:

<http://www.hsrbpress.ac.za/downloadpdf.php?pdfname=files%2FPDF%2F2200%2FMonitoring%20Child%20Well-Being%20-%20Entire%20eBook.pdf&downloadfilename=Chapter%201%20-%20Monitoring%20the%20well-being%20of%20children%3A%20Historical%20and%20conceptual%20foundations>



This book provides an evidence and rights-based approach to monitoring the well-being

of children and adolescents in South Africa. Drawing on international precedents, and extensive peer review processes, experts in various fields have developed this holistic set of indicators to enhance the monitoring of the status of children.

ONLINE PUBLICATIONS

HIV - AIDS - STI

Demand forecast for antiretroviral drugs in low and middle-income countries, 2007-2008

World Health Organization and UNAIDS, November 2007



31 pp. 1.8 MB:

<http://www.who.int/hiv/amds/ReportDemandForecastforARV2007-2008.pdf>



Based on scale-up observed during 2006, the publication's forecasts provide 2007-2008 estimates of the number of people receiving antiretroviral therapy. This forecast will be updated regularly as new data become available, including new data on the number of people receiving treatment and those who need treatment.

* * *

A dilemma in HIV post-test counselling in population surveys: the effect of poor antiretroviral roll-out

by Elia John Mmbaga - Muhimbili University College of Health Sciences, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

J Infect Developing Countries 2007; 1(2):84-86 (4 June 2007)



3 pp. 135 kB:

http://www.oloep.org/uploadedFiles/jidc/issues/2007_10/03_ms_mmbaga.pdf

Many participants during my pre-test counselling ask the fundamental question, "What happens if I test positive for HIV?" My answers are limited. These limitations stem from the lack of options available for HIV sero-positive patients in developing countries that proves to be a huge moral and professional challenge.

* * *

High Uptake of Exclusive Breastfeeding and Reduced Early Post-Natal HIV Transmission

Louise Kuhn, Moses Sinkala, Chipepo Kankasa et al.

PLoS ONE 2(12): e1363 (26 December 2007)



9 pp. 181 kB:

<http://clinicaltrials.ploshubs.org/article/fetchObjectAttachment.action.jsessionid=5F293ADDD57EC2F7B0210B56724B2291?uri=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0001363&representation=PDF>

Promotion of exclusive breastfeeding (EBF) has been a cornerstone of public health measures to promote child survival for several decades. Here the authors present the results of a prospective, observational study in Lusaka, Zambia, designed to test the a

priori hypothesis that EBF is associated with a lower risk of early postnatal HIV transmission than non-EBF.

* * *

Deadly cocktail: HIV and drug use

IRIN / PlusNews Southern Africa - Johannesburg, November 2007



16 pp. 1.1 MB:

<http://www.irinnews.org/pdf/in-depth/PlusNews-IDU-Nov-07.pdf>

This publication is a PlusNews special on injecting drug users (IDUs) in Africa. It found that while some African countries like Mauritius, Kenya and Tanzania have addressed the problem of IDUs and HIV, many of their peers have not. As the undercover epidemic spreads, there continues to be a lack of services for this vulnerable population such as substitution therapy or treatment centres specialising in drug users - and the possible interactions between addictions and antiretrovirals.

* * *

Pathogenesis of HIV Disease: Opportunities for New Prevention Interventions

by Anthony S. Fauci

Clinical Infectious Diseases, 2007 Dec 15;45 Suppl 4:S206-S212



7 pp. 332 kB:

<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/522540>

Current efforts to prevent human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) disease, which largely focus on altering human behavior, have had some notable successes yet have failed to halt the spread of the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome pandemic. A greater understanding of the pathogenesis of HIV disease is providing us with the scientific rationale for additional approaches to prevention. Some of the approaches discussed in this article are available now.

* * *

HIV, AIDS and Islam: A Workshop Manual Based on Compassion, Responsibility and Justice

Edited by Farid Esack with Shahrukh Alam and Kabir (Sanjay) Bavikatte
Positive Muslims 2007; ISBN: 978-0-620-38354-7



80 pp. 1.2 MB:

http://www.coreinitiative.org/Resources/Publications/CORE_PM.pdf



Increasingly, there are initiatives in Muslim communities to raise awareness about the prevalence of HIV and AIDS and address the generally-held belief that it is a disease of promiscuity. This manual aims to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS, its manifestations and impact on the community amongst Muslims. In addition, it encourages discussion on gender, sex and sexuality and looks at how to incorporate these and a holistic approach to illness and sexual health from an Islamic perspective.

* * *

Caribbean HIV and AIDS Pocket Guide for Nurses

The Caribbean Partnership for Nurses in HIV & AIDS Care, October 2007



156 pp. 2.3 MB:

<http://www.go2itech.org/pdf/p06-db/db-51046.pdf>



This HIV and AIDS pocket guide aims to serve as a ready source of information for nurses who are involved in providing care and treatment to HIV-infected patients. Recommendations for care and treatment change rapidly and health care providers are therefore encouraged to consult the Caribbean HIV and AIDS Regional Training (CHART) Network web site <http://www.chartcaribbean.org/> for updated guidelines and information.

* * *

Diagnosis of HIV Infection in Infants

A Comprehensive Implementation and Clinical Manual



by Elaine J. Abrams, Ruby Fayorsey and Luis Felipe Gonzalez
International Center for AIDS Care and Treatment Programs, Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, 2007



78 pp. 2.5 MB:

<http://www.go2itech.org/pdf/p06-db/db-51038.pdf>

The manual is intended to provide guidance at the site level for nurses, physicians, counsellors and other healthcare providers caring for HIV-exposed children. In addition, it targets HIV/AIDS programme managers, health planners, laboratory technicians and organizations responsible for programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The manual is also expected to be useful to national and local governments and to local and international partners and organizations supporting these activities.

* * *

Helminth-HIV Coinfection: Should We Deworm?

by Gadi Borkow, Carrie Teicher and Zvi Bentwich
PLoS Negl Trop Dis 1(3): e160 (19 December 2007)



2 pp. 73 kB:

<http://www.plosntds.org/article/fetchObjectAttachment.action;jsessionid=9B506252B2752DFAA00BCDEAB3A359D9?uri=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pntd.0000160&representation=PDF>

The authors suggest that helminth infections may play a major role in the pathogenesis of HIV-1 infection in Africa and other developing countries, due to their profound effects on the host immune system, which would make those infected with helminths more susceptible to HIV-1 infection and more vulnerable to the disease's effects.

* * *

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back - Will There Ever Be an AIDS Vaccine?

by Robert Steinbrook
N Engl J Med 357;26 - December 27, 2007



3 pp. 150 kB:

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/reprint/357/26/2653.pdf>

Unfortunately, about a quarter-century after the discovery of HIV, there is neither a marketable vaccine nor a credible expectation about when there will be one. According to Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), "To be brutally honest with ourselves, we have to leave open the possibility... that we might not ever get a vaccine for HIV. People are afraid to say that because they think it would then indicate that maybe we are giving up. We are not giving up. We are going to push this agenda as aggressively and energetically as we always have. But there is a possibility - a clear finite possibility - that that's the case."

* * *

Managing meningitis in people with HIV in resource-limited settings: a clinical review

by Theo Smart - HIV & AIDS Treatment in Practice, No. 98, 21 December 2007



39 pp. 273 kB:

<http://groups.google.com/group/health-education-social-protection-news-notes/web/HATIP-%2398.pdf?hl=en>

This clinical review covers meningitis, a common presenting condition in people with HIV in Africa and Asia. Meningitis has a variety of infectious causes, and diagnosis and treatment vary considerably according to the potential cause.

* * *

HIV prevention technologies

Exchange on HIV/AIDS, Sexuality and Gender, No. 4, 2007



16 pp. 454 kB:

http://www.kit.nl/net/KIT_Publicaties_output/ShowFile2.aspx?e=1403

This issue of Exchange focuses on promises and concerns with regards to new HIV prevention technologies, both existing and under study, including the female condom, male circumcision, microbicides and vaccines.

* * *

A national survey of prisoners on antiretroviral therapy in Malawi: access to treatment and outcomes on therapy

by Simon D. Makombe, Andreas Jahn, Hannock Tweya et al.

J Infect Developing Countries 2007; 1(3):303-307(26 September 2007)



5 pp. 64 kB:

http://www.oloep.org/uploadedFiles/jidc/issues/2007_12/2007_v1_n3_a10_makombe.pdf

Malawi is making good progress scaling up antiretroviral therapy (ART), but we do not know the levels of access of high-risk, disadvantaged groups such as prisoners. The authors conclude that in spite of the rapid scale-up of ART, only a small number of HIV-positive prisoners had accessed ART by the end of 2006. Treatment outcomes were good. Initiatives are now needed to improve access to HIV testing and ART in Malawi's prisons.

Managing HIV in the Workplace - Learning from SMEs

by Jocelyn Vass and Sizwe Phakathi
Human Sciences Research Council Press, Cape Town 2006
ISBN 10-0-7969-2161-X



104 pp. 1.1 MB:

http://www.hsrbpress.ac.za/downloadpdf.php?pdffile=files%2FPDF%2F2170%2Fa%20-%20Managing_HIV%7E95200693314AM.pdf&downloadfilename=Managing%20HIV%20in%20the%20Workplace%20-%20Managing%20HIV%20in%20the%20Workplace%20-%20Entire%20eBook

Small- and medium-sized companies are often castigated for their relatively poor performance and capacity in mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS on the workplace. This study provides an in-depth analysis of the opportunities and constraints faced by six small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in managing the burden of HIV/AIDS within their companies.

* * *

Harm Undone: The Potential Influence of Harm Reduction on Political and Social Change in Central Asia

by Marina Smelyanskaya and Kasia Malinowska-Sempruch
International Harm Reduction Development Program, Open Society Institute, September 2007



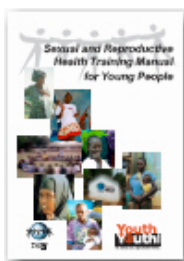
11 pp. 95 kB:

http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/focus/ihrd/articles_publications/publication_s/harm_20070901/HarmUndone2007.pdf

Despite mounting evidence that harm reduction programs are effective in preventing the spread of HIV among drug users, such programs are often challenged by politicians and community leaders. This report examines the need for - and challenges to - developing effective harm reduction strategies in Central Asia.

Sexual & Reproductive Health

Sexual and Reproductive Health Training Manual for Young People



Haile Gabriel Dagne, Teshome Admassu, Debbie Knitt et al.
German Foundation for World Population (DSW), 2006/2007



English version (197 pp 3.4 MB):

http://www.youth-to-youth.org/manual_english.php?l1=4&l2=1



French version: (194 pp. 3.6 MB):

http://www.youth-to-youth.org/manual_french.php?l1=4&l2=1

The training material provides the knowledge and skills necessary for peer educators to systematically pass pertinent, accurate and up-to-date Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) information to their peers. The manual uses simple language and emphasizes participatory learning. Unit topics include female and male anatomy, adolescence, sexually transmitted infections and HIV basics, HIV prevention, and family planning among many other.

* * *

The WHO Strategic Approach to Strengthening Sexual and Reproductive Health Policies and Programmes

Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization, 2007



12 pp. 756 kB:

http://www.who.int/reproductive-health/strategic_approach/strategicapproach.pdf

The strategic approach to strengthening sexual and reproductive health policies and programmes involves a three-stage process for assisting countries to assess reproductive health needs and priorities, test policies and programme adaptations to address these needs, and then scale up successful interventions.

* * *

The Role of Schools in Promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health Among Adolescents in Developing Countries



by Cynthia B. Lloyd

Population Council Working Paper No. 6, 2007



29 pp. 725 kB:

<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/wp/pgy/006.pdf>

This paper reviews the state of knowledge about relationships between schooling and adolescent reproductive health. With the spread of mass schooling and the growing share of adolescents who attend school, the opportunities for synergies between health and education policies and programs are growing. But disappointing findings from recent school-based reproductive health interventions in poor rural settings raise questions about the widespread applicability of current school-based approaches to promoting sexual and reproductive health.

Maternal & Child Health

Home treatment of children with pneumonia safe and effective

Red online at: <http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2008/pr01/en/index.html>

Treating children with severe pneumonia at home is just as effective as treating them in hospitals, a new study has found: "Ambulatory short-course high-dose oral amoxicillin for treatment of severe pneumonia in children: a randomised equivalency trial" (The Lancet 2008; 371:49-56). The study results could significantly change the way the illness is managed in developing countries, saving a significant number of lives every year and taking pressure off health systems.

* * *

The Case for Childhood Immunization



by Mark Kane and Heidi Lasher

Children's Vaccine Program (CVP), Occasional Paper #5, March 2002



16 pp. 955 kB:

http://www.childrensvaccine.org/files/CVP_Occ_Paper5.pdf

In this advocacy document, the Children's Vaccine Program looks at the past 50 years of vaccines and immunizations. They examine the lack of vaccines in resource-poor countries and the lack of initiative in fully developed countries - both which can lead to childhood illness, death, and resurgences of old diseases once considered fully eradicated.

* * *

Each and every child: understanding and working with children in the poorest and most difficult situations

by Patricia Ray and Sarah Carter
Plan UK, 2007; ISBN: 978-0-9550479-1-6



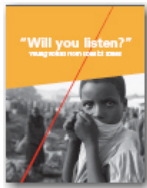
 99 pp. 2.0 MB:
http://www.crin.org/docs/PlanEach_final.pdf

Children in the poorest and most difficult situations may have distinct problems, but the root causes and factors that impact on their lives are similar. This report emphasises the importance of a holistic approach to addressing problems faced by these children. It proposes a framework that can help staff think about working with these groups of children from an integrated, child-centred and rights-based development perspective.

* * *

“Will you listen?” - Young voices from conflict zones

Machel Study 10-Year Strategic Review: Children and Conflict in a Changing World
by Vidar Ekehaug and Cherner Bah
Global Youth Action Network (GYAN) and UNFPA



 28 pp. 394 kB:
http://www.unicef.org/voy/media/Will_You_Listen_090607.pdf

The Report includes firsthand accounts of the atrocities that children suffer during war and calls for more involvement of children in resolving conflicts and healing post-conflict societies.

Malaria

Plasmodium knowlesi Malaria in Humans Is Widely Distributed and Potentially Life Threatening



by Janet Cox-Singh, Timothy M. E. Davis, Kim-Sung Lee et al.
Clinical Infectious Diseases 2008;46:165-171 (15 January 2008)

 7 pp. 438 kB:
<http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/pdf/10.1086/524888>

Human infection with *Plasmodium knowlesi*, commonly misidentified as the more benign *P. malariae*, are widely distributed across Malaysian Borneo and extend to Peninsular Malaysia. Because *P. knowlesi* replicates every 24h, rapid diagnosis and prompt effective treatment are essential. In the absence of a specific routine diagnostic test for *P. knowlesi* malaria, the authors recommend that patients who reside in or have travelled

to Southeast Asia and who have received a "P. malariae" hyperparasitemia diagnosis by microscopy receive intensive management as appropriate for severe falciparum malaria.

* * *

Estimated financial and human resources requirements for the treatment of malaria in Malawi

Adamson S Muula, Emmanuel Rudatsikira, Seter Siziya and Ronald H Mataya
Malaria Journal 2007, 6:168 (19 December 2007)



16 pp. 135 kB:

<http://www.malariajournal.com/content/pdf/1475-2875-6-168.pdf>

Malaria exacts a heavy toll on the health system in Malawi. The national recommendation of self-medication with first-line drug for uncomplicated malaria is justified as there are not enough clinicians to provide clinical care for all cases. The Malawi Ministry of Health's promotion of malaria drug prescription including other lower cadre health workers may be justified.

* * *

Childhood Asymptomatic Malaria and Nutritional Status among Port Harcourt Children

by Z.A. Jeremiah & E.K. Uko
East African Journal of Public Health, Vol 4 No 2, October 2007



4 pp. 290 kB:

<http://www.bioline.org.br/pdf?lp07012>

From this study the authors concluded that the presence of under-nutrition places children (especially below 5 years of age) at higher risk of malaria related morbidity. Children in malaria endemic areas need adequate nutrition to withstand the negative impact of malaria.

* * *

Malaria control among children under five in sub-Saharan Africa: the role of empowerment and parents' participation besides the clinical strategies

by David Houeto, William D'Hoore, Edgard-Marius Ouendo, Dominique Charlier and Alain Deccache
Rural and Remote Health 7 (online), November 2007: 840



10 pp. 190 kB:

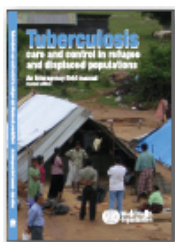
http://www.rrh.org.au/publishedarticles/article_print_840.pdf

The problem of malaria control in children under 5 years now exceeds a simple biomedical vision of health. Under-five malaria control should also involve parents and non-medical community sectors. The concern of this study was to establish whether there are interventions relating to under-five malaria control that impact on the target communities.

* * *

Tuberculosis Care and Control in Refugee and Displaced Populations

An interagency field manual (Second Edition)



Edited by M.A. Connolly, M. Gayer and S. Ottmani
World Health Organization and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, 2007; ISBN 978 92 4 159542 1



121 pp. 982 kB:

http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2007/9789241595421_eng.pdf

This manual gives guidelines on the treatment and prevention of TB in refugees and displaced populations. It includes management of TB in adults, in children and the implementation and monitoring of TB programmes.

* * *

Counseling Tuberculosis Patients - A Guide

by Oyun Bayar and Nymadawaa Naranbat
Mongolian Antituberculosis Association, Ulaanbaatar, 2006



45 pp. 160 kB:

http://www.iuatld.org/upload/home_news/tb_counseling_a_guide_eng_final_uk_290.pdf

This is a guide for those working with TB patients. It outlines the various forms of counselling skills including how to counsel specific clients, how to help patients solve their problems and how to regulate the counsellors' workload.

* * *

The Malawi National Tuberculosis Programme: an equity analysis

by Bertha Nhlema Simwaka, George Bello, Hastings Banda et al.
International Journal for Equity in Health 2007, 6:24 (31 December 2007)



21 pp. 240 kB:

<http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/pdf/1475-9276-6-24.pdf>

Until 2005, the Malawi National Tuberculosis Control Programme had been implemented as a vertical programme. Working within the Sector Wide Approach (SWAp) provides a new environment and new opportunities for monitoring the equity performance of the programme. This paper synthesizes what is known on equity and TB in Malawi and highlights areas for further action and advocacy.

* * *

Incidence of Tuberculosis and the Predictive Value of ELISPOT and Mantoux Tests in Gambian Case Contacts

by Philip C. Hill, Dolly J. Jackson-Sillah, Annette Fox et al.
PLoS ONE 3(1): e1379 (2 January 2008)



7 pp. 173 kB:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/fetchObjectAttachment.action;jsessionid=A2D3E533D6A6B244F277DEF8EC44248A?uri=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0001379&representation=PDF>

Studies of Tuberculosis (TB) case contacts are increasingly being utilised for understanding the relationship between *M. tuberculosis* and the human host and for assessing new interventions and diagnostic tests. The authors aimed to identify the incidence rate of new TB cases among TB contacts and to relate this to their initial Mantoux and ELISPOT test results.

* * *

Direct observation and adherence to tuberculosis treatment in Chongqing, China: a descriptive study

by Daiyu Hu, Xiaoyun Liu, Jing Chen, Yang Wang et al.
Health Policy and Planning 2008 23(1):43-55



13 pp. 260 kB:

<http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/reprint/23/1/43.pdf>

China has an estimated 5 million people with tuberculosis (TB). Official policy is that treatment of all patients is directly observed by health workers; completion rates are reported to be in excess of 90%, and drugs should be supplied for free. However, some research suggests there is a gap between the official policies and practice.

Other Infectious Diseases

Filaria in Travelers Presenting to the GeoSentinel Surveillance Network

by Ettie M. Lipner, Melissa A. Law, Elizabeth Barnett et al.
PLoS Negl Trop Dis 1(3): e88 (26 December 2007)



7 pp. 222 kB:

<http://www.plosntds.org/article/fetchObjectAttachment.action?uri=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pntd.0000088&representation=PDF>

The authors analyzed data on filarial infections that provides insights into the clinical differences seen among filaria-infected expatriates and those from endemic regions, and demonstrate that *Onchocerca volvulus* infection can be acquired with short-term travel.

* * *

Targeted Screening Strategies to Detect *Trypanosoma cruzi* Infection in Children

Michael Z. Levy, Vivian Kawai, Natalie M. Bowman et al.
PLoS Negl Trop Dis 1(3): e103 (26 December 2007)



9 pp. 524 kB:

<http://www.plosntds.org/article/fetchObjectAttachment.action?uri=info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pntd.0000103&representation=PDF>

Millions of people are infected with *Trypanosoma cruzi*, the causative agent of Chagas disease in Latin America. Anti-trypanosomal drug therapy can cure infected individuals, but treatment efficacy is highest early in infection. Without timely diagnosis, infected

children often miss the window of opportunity for effective chemotherapy. A new targeted screening strategy could make the diagnosis and treatment of Chagas disease more efficient and cost-effective in the resource-poor regions where the disease is endemic.

Essential Medicines

Access to Medicine Index - Industry & Stakeholder Review

Final Report



Veronique Menou, Adam Savitz and Katharine Preston
Innovest Healthcare Team, November 2007



76 pp. 3.8 MB:

http://www.atmindex.org/doc/Industry_and_Stakeholder_Review.pdf

The Access to Medicine Index (AtM Index) framework is part of a global initiative to improve access to medicines (ATMs) worldwide. The project aims to highlight that ATMs is the joint responsibility of all stakeholders involved in improving global health, with pharmaceutical companies an essential actor in providing access to drugs to those in need. The forthcoming Index will serve as a tool to aid the pharmaceutical industry and its stakeholders in shaping access to medicine policies and strategies.

* * *

The Cost of Pushing Pills: A New Estimate of Pharmaceutical Promotion Expenditures in the United States

by Marc-André Gagnon and Joel Lexchin
PLoS Med 5(1): e1 (January 3, 2008)



5 pp. 70 kB:

http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/5/1/pdf/10.1371_journal.pmed.0050001-S.pdf

From this new estimate, it appears that pharmaceutical companies spend almost twice as much on promotion as they do on Research & Development (R&D). The numbers clearly show how promotion predominates over R&D in the pharmaceutical industry, contrary to the industry's claim. The amount spent on promotion confirms the public image of a marketing-driven industry and provides an important argument to petition in favour of transforming the workings of the industry in the direction of more research and less promotion.

Social Security

The social protection policy in Malawi: processes, politics and challenges

by Blessings Chinsinga
Institute for Policy research and Social Empowerment, Malawi; August 2007



35 pp. 400 kB:

<http://www.wahenga.net/uploads/documents/library/The%20Social%20Protection%20Policy%20in%20Malawi.pdf>

This paper analyses the evolution of Malawi's social protection policy which is nearing its completion. It is critical of the fact that there has been no accompanying nationwide debate and dialogue and puts forward some possible explanations.

* * *

Social Cash Transfers and Children Affected by HIV and AIDS

by Maia Green

UK Department for International Development (DfID), 2007



25 pp. 135 kB:

<http://www.aidsportal.org/repos/workshop%20background%20paper1.pdf>

This paper considers core issues around social cash transfers in relation to children and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. It provides an overview of evidence regarding the potential impacts of social cash transfers for vulnerable children, including those affected by HIV and AIDS. It examines the implications of programme design for reaching vulnerable children and considers the capacity constraints affecting scale up in the region.

Human Resources

The costs of eliminating critical shortages in human resources for health

by Paul Verboom, Tessa Tan-Torres Edejer and David Evans

Health Systems Financing, World Health Organization, 2006



12 pp. 528 kB:

http://www.who.int/choice/publications/d_human_resources.pdf

The World Health Organization (WHO) has calculated in the 2006 World Health Report the minimum number of Health Workers (HW) required for supplying sufficient health care to the population in developing countries. Health workers are defined as medical doctors, nurses and midwives. In this paper, the authors describe how they calculated the costs that are necessary for bridging the gap that exists between the current availability of HW and the required HW in the year 2015. It will take into account the costs for educating these health workers and the salaries to pay for them.

* * *

Non-physician clinicians in 47 sub-Saharan African countries

by Fitzhugh Mullan and Seble Frehywot

The Lancet 2007; 370:2158-2163 (22 December 2007)

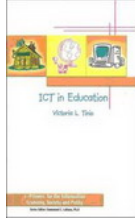


6 pp. 106 kB:

<http://download.thelancet.com/pdfs/journals/0140-6736/PIIS0140673607607855.pdf>

Many countries have health-care providers who are not trained as physicians but who take on many of the diagnostic and clinical functions of medical doctors. Low training costs, reduced training duration, and success in rural placements suggest that non-physician clinicians could have substantial roles in the scale-up of health workforces in sub-Saharan African countries, including for the planned expansion of HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programmes.

ICT in Education



by Victoria L. Tinio
UNDP Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme (APDIP), 2003



34 pp. 205 kB:

<http://www.apdip.net/publications/iespprimers/eprimer-edu.pdf>

For developing countries ICTs have the potential for increasing access to and improving the relevance and quality of education. This booklet aims to provide readers with a clear understanding of the various terminologies, definitions, trends, and issues associated with the information age. It is written in simple, easy-to-understand language. It provides examples, case studies, lessons learned, and best practices that will help planners and decision makers in addressing pertinent issues and crafting policies and strategies appropriate for the information economy.

* * *

Survey of ICT and Education in Africa

Volume II: 53 Country Reports

by Glen Farrell, Shafika Isaacs and Michael Trucano
The World Bank, infoDev ICT and Education Series, 2007



587 pp. 3.6 MB:

<http://www.infodev.org/en/Document.354.aspx>



This report synthesises the findings from a survey focused on the following key questions:

- How are ICTs currently being used in the education sector in Africa, and what are the strategies and policies related to this use?
- What are the common challenges and constraints faced by African countries in this area?
- What is actually happening on the ground, and to what extent are donors involved?

You may also be interested in: Survey of ICT and Education in Africa - Volume I: A Summary Report, Based on 53 Country Surveys (74 pp. 907 kB):
<http://www.infodev.org/en/Document.353.aspx>

Information & Communication Technology

The un-wired continent: Africa's mobile success story

by Vanessa Gray
International Telecommunication Union (ITU), 2006



7 pp. 64 kB:

http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/statistics/at_glance/Africa_EE2006_e.pdf



This paper explores trends in mobile telephone use on the African continent. Drawing on International Telecommunication Union (ITU) databases, the author shares a variety of figures and patterns to illustrate and explain the success of mobile telephony in Africa.

Costs of information and communication technology in developing country school systems: the experience of Botswana, Namibia and Seychelles

by Andrew Paterson

International Journal of Education and Development using ICT, Vol. 3, No. 4 (2007)

Read online at: <http://ijedict.dec.uwi.edu/viewarticle.php?id=416&layout=html>

Despite the steady decline in the relative cost of acquiring information and communication technology (ICT), the cost of owning and maintaining sustainable computer systems in schools is rising. Simultaneously, Ministries of Education (MoE) in sub-Saharan Africa are under pressure to invest in ICT. However, there is very little evidence upon which decision makers can base their decisions to allocate finances to ICT.

* * *

Health Informatics - An Area of Emerging Opportunities

by Jean Roberts

Lancashire School of Health and Post-Graduate Medicine, October 2007



28 pp. 3.5 MB:

http://www.equalitec.org.uk/equalitec_main/images/HI_Career_e-Booklet.pdf

Health informatics is the knowledge, skills and tools that enable information to be collected, managed, used and shared to support the delivery of healthcare and to promote health and wellbeing. This booklet aims to give a window on health informatics across the United Kingdom, possible career paths and to set the current opportunities into the context of previous history and potential ways forward.

Millennium Development Goals

Cutting Poverty: Learning from the Leaders

Editor: Uday Mohan

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) Forum

October/November 2007



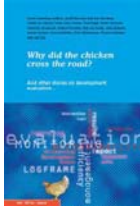
16 pp. 522 kB:

<http://www.ifpri.org/PUBS/newsletters/IFPRIForum/if20.pdf>

The year 2007 marks the halfway point toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which were adopted in 2000 and have a deadline of 2015. A few developing countries have succeeded in quickly and dramatically reducing the share of their populations living in poverty. What lessons do these countries' experiences offer the rest of the developing world?

Development Assistance

Why did the Chicken cross the Road? - And other stories on development evaluation...



Editor S.J.R. Cummings
KIT Publishers, Amsterdam, 2005; ISBN 9068328492; Price € 25.00



88 pp. 261 kB:

http://www.kit.nl/net/KIT_Publicaties_output/ShowFile2.aspx?e=1005

The debate on collaboration within evaluation is reminiscent of the question: "Why did the chicken cross the road?" The simple answer is that it wanted to get to the other side. But the evaluator wants to know much more... Increasing demands for institutional accountability and the need for learning at all levels of development, at the same time as a growing emphasis on multilateral as opposed to bilateral development aid, are calling for new approaches to evaluation.

* * *

Rebuilding Health Systems and Providing Health Services in Fragile States

by William Newbrander

Management Sciences for Health Occasional Papers No.7 (2007)



40 pp. 373 kB:

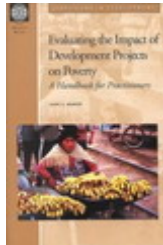
http://www.msh.org/resources/publications/pdf/Rebuilding_Health_Systems_Fragile_States.pdf

The international community has compelling humanitarian, political, security, and economic reasons to become engaged in fragile states. There are various options for donor financing and models of engagement with fragile states, but this support should always combine short-term relief with longer-term development. Stakeholders should aim not only to save and protect lives but also use their commitment over the long run to shore up nations' ability to deliver good-quality services to their citizens.

* * *

Evaluating the Impact of Development Projects on Poverty

A Handbook for Practitioners



by Judy L. Baker

The World Bank, Washington, D.C., May 2000; ISBN 0-8213-4697-0



225 pp. 705 kB:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTISPMA/Resources/handbook.pdf>

Despite the billions of dollars spent on development assistance each year, there is still very little known about the actual impact of projects on the poor. There is broad evidence on the benefits of economic growth, investments in human capital, and the provision of safety nets for the poor. But for a specific program or project in a given country, is the intervention producing the intended benefits and what was the overall impact on the population? This handbook seeks to provide project managers and policy analysts with the tools needed for evaluating project impact. It is aimed at readers with a general knowledge of statistics.

* * *

Guidelines for Pre- and Post-Testing

I-TECH Technical Implementation Guide #2
University of Washington, 2007



8 pp. 300 kB:

<http://www.go2itech.org/pdf/db-51014.pdf>

Pre- and post-tests are used to measure knowledge gained from participating in a training course. This guide will provide you with information on when and how to use pre- and post-tests, tips for developing good questions, instructions for how to validate and administer pre- and post-tests, and a description of how to analyze results.

* * *

Measuring global health inequity

by Daniel D Reidpath and Pascale Allotey
International Journal for Equity in Health 2007, 6:16 (30 October 2007)



7 pp. 281 kB:

<http://www.equityhealthj.com/content/pdf/1475-9276-6-16.pdf>

Notions of equity are fundamental to, and drive much of the current thinking about global health. Health inequity, however, is usually measured using health inequality as a proxy - implicitly conflating equity and equality. Unfortunately measures of global health inequality do not take account of the health inequity associated with the additional, and unfair, encumbrances that poor health status confers on economically deprived populations.

* * *

Progress towards Equitable Health Care Resource Allocation in East and Southern Africa

by Di McIntyre, Bona Chitah, Lovemore Mabandi, Felix Masiye, Thomas Mbeeli and Shepherd Shamu
EQUINET Discussion Paper 52, December 2007



15 pp. 145 kB:

<http://www.equinet africa.org/bibl/docs/Diss52RAfin07.pdf>



This report, implemented under the fair financing theme in the Regional network for equity in health in east and southern Africa (EQUINET) assesses whether there has been progress towards equitable resource allocation in four Southern African countries which have adopted a resource allocation formula that is based on indicators of the relative need for health care within each geographic area (Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe). Researchers in these countries provided information on implementation progress in their countries.

* * *

Integrating Population, Health, and Environment in Tanzania

by Melissa Thaxton

BRinging Information to Decisionmakers for Global Effectiveness (BRIDGE), Population Reference Bureau, 2007



12 pp. 1.2 MB:

<http://www.prb.org/pdf07/phe-tanzania.pdf>

While links among population, health, and the environment are sometimes acknowledged in national-level policies and development strategies, most development efforts continue to employ a traditional sectoral approach, aligned with the division of government services and institutional structures. In doing so, opportunities for achieving superior results - in cost-effectiveness, programmatic and administrative efficiencies, and programmatic outcomes - by employing an integrated, holistic approach may be missed.

ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

E-Library on Mainstreaming AIDS in Development



UNAIDS
JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

UNHCR
UNICEF
WFP
UNDP
UNFPA
UNODC
ILO
UNESCO
WHO
WORLD BANK

<http://www.unaids.org/mainstreaming/elibrary>

This E-Library contains over 1,500 documents to assist with the implementation of AIDS mainstreaming processes at the global, regional, national, local, sectoral and programme level. It is part of a series of joint UNAIDS/UNDP/World Bank resources to support mainstreaming as a feasible and effective approach to scale up multisectoral responses to AIDS.

* * *

Poverty Impact Evaluations Database

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/TOPICS/EXTPOVERTY/EXTISPMA/0,,contentMDK:21534261~menuPK:412159~pagePK:210058~piPK:210062~theSitePK:384329,00.html>

This database provides access to impact evaluations of World Bank-supported interventions and impact evaluations undertaken by World Bank staff over the past few years, as well as others from a variety of other academic and development institutions. It includes impact evaluations (ex-ante and ex-post), where an intervention outcome is assessed against an explicit counterfactual. The interface allows the user to search the database by country, region, sector and/or evaluation method.

* * *

Health Services Research Projects in Progress

<http://www.academyhealth.org/hsrproj/>



The HSRProj (Health Services Research Projects) in Progress is a free database coordinated by the National Information Center on Health Services Research and Health Care Technology (NICHSR) for the National Library of Medicine containing more than 6,000 descriptions of ongoing health services research projects funded by government and state agencies, foundations, and private organizations.

* * *

Procurement & Supply Management Toolbox

<http://www.psmtoolbox.org/>

The Procurement & Supply Management (PSM) Toolbox for HIV-related health commodities features a user-friendly search engine, regularly updated content, a forum to share tool use experiences and more.

A CD-ROM version of the PSM Toolbox is also available. If you would like to receive the CD-ROM please contact:

Ms. Clarisse Morris cmorris@idasolutions.org or

Dr. Kenji Tamura amds@who.int

* * *

African Health Sciences submission and review online

<http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/mums-ahs>

Courtesy of ScholarOne, African Health Sciences is now receiving manuscripts online directly. Just go to the above website and follow the instructions. When you have successfully submitted, you will be sent an e-mail to that effect. Similarly the reviewers will be able to review manuscripts online.

* * *

Complimentary access to Journal of Travel Medicine



<http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/jtm/14/1>

The Journal of Travel Medicine publishes up-to-date research and original, peer-reviewed articles in the challenging field of travel medicine, including: prevention and treatment of disease; clinic management; patient and staff education; immunizations; impact of travel on host countries; military medicine; problems of refugees; diseases such as malaria, travellers' diarrhoea, hepatitis, TB, STDs and AIDS, jet lag, altitude sickness, trauma, special hosts, and more.

INTERESTING WEB PAGES

MenEngage

<http://www.menengage.org/>



MenEngage is a global alliance of non-governmental organizations that are involved in an array of research, interventions, and policy initiatives seeking to engage men and boys in effective ways to reduce gender inequalities and promote health and the well-being of women, men, and children.

* * *

Do Bugs Need Drugs?

<http://www.dobugsneeddrugs.org>

This website provides information for healthcare professionals, the public, teachers,



parents and children on the dangers of unnecessary use of antibiotics particularly for managing respiratory tract infections, including colds, flu, sore throat, cough, ear aches, sinus infections, chest colds (bronchitis) and pneumonia.

* * *

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations - Panama (IFMSA- Panama)

<http://ifmsapanama.org/int/>



IFMSA-Panama is a national alliance of medical students interested in global health issues. Our organization aims to develop cooperation among medical students. We think that as future physicians, we should be more active in contributing to the development and well-being of our country and the world.

* * *

Dramatool



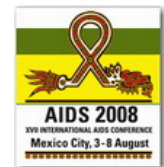
<http://www.dramatool.org/>

Dramatool is a web-based platform described as an international meeting point for drama/theatre education. Available in Amharic, Chinese, English, French, Kiswahili, and Spanish this website is an effort to empower drama and theatre practitioners through networking. Dramatool aims to be an open forum, which is available to anybody who is interested in and works in the area of drama education and performing arts.

* * *

Guide to Community Involvement in AIDS 2008

http://www.icaso.org/aids2008community/use_this_site.html



This Guide was created by the International Council of AIDS Service Organizations (ICASO) and the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS (GNP+) to help you better understand and participate in the international AIDS conference to be held in Mexico City, August 3-8, 2008. Although much of the information in this Guide is also found on the main conference website, <http://www.aids2008.org> here it is written by and for people from the community.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

17th February - 14th March, 2008

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Malmö, Sweden

15th - 22nd October, 2008

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), Ukraine

Course Content: Sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR); the HIV/AIDS epidemic in a SRHR context; WHO strategies; research-focused knowledge as basis for continuing development; leadership aspects in improvement of SRHR.

Target Audience: Midwives, gynaecologists, obstetricians.
Entry Requirements: At least 5 years working experience.

For more information contact:
Susanne Norrman
Tel.: +46-46-222-07-55
Fax: +46-46-222-07-50
susanne.norrman@education.lu.se
or see: <http://www.sida.se>

For more courses and conferences see also:
<http://www.going-international.at/index.php?page=E01>

CONFERENCES

Second International Congress of Central Asia Infectious Diseases (ICCAID 2008)



27 - 30 March 2008
Almaty, Kazakhstan

After the collapse of former Soviet Union, the incidences of infectious diseases have dramatically increased in the Central Asian States. Along with economic and political problems, ineffective new healthcare systems and programs in these countries contributed to the rise of such endemic diseases. As all researchers in the infectious diseases area have a common goal of understanding and fighting the relentless spread of infectious diseases, it is hoped that the meeting will help the developing regions of the world succeed in its fight against infectious diseases.

For more information about the meeting see: <http://www.iccaid.org/default.aspx>

CARTOON



“You can stop now. I think I already have a pretty good idea how your eye sight is!”

TIPS & TRICKS

Long Distance Scrolling in MS Excel

The scroll bar in MS Excel basically allows for easy movement in the vicinity of the columns and rows that are already in use. But, what if you are looking to scroll well beyond that?

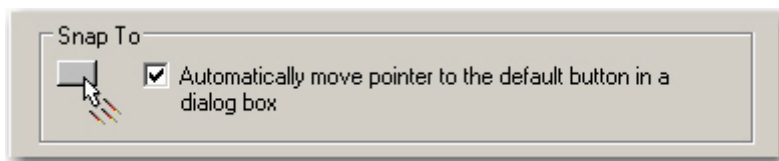
You could use the Page Up, Page Down and arrow keys to make your journey, but you may just prefer scrolling. So, what can you do? There is a quick solution to your problem and it is called the **Shift key**. If you hold down the Shift key and then click on the scroll box, you will find you can do some very rapid and very extended scrolling through your worksheet.

* * *

Let the Mouse snap to the default button

Any time you change a setting on your PC, you have to press OK for it to take effect. Isn't it a little repetitive to have to press that button every single time? How would you like your mouse to automatically do it for you?

It is possible and here is how! You just have to enable the "Snap To" feature for your mouse. Go to Start, Control Panel, click on the Mouse icon and then click on the Pointer Options tab. The second choice there is "Snap To". Checkmark that box and click OK.



So, from now on, your mouse pointer will automatically move to the default button in any dialogue box. Every time

you are doing something on your computer, the mouse pointer will take care of the finishing touches for you and you won't have to worry about moving your hand back over to your mouse.

Best regards,

Dieter Neuvians
dneuvians@gmx.de