



Health is a fundamental human right, a moral and social imperative, and the basis of equitable growth and sustainable development

Newsletter

Issue 13, October 2014

Health News

Public-Private Partnerships

The Corner House supports democratic and community movements for environmental and social justice. It has recently held a [conference and launched its campaign](#) on the privatization of critical frontline services in the UK through the Private Finance Initiative (PFI).

A recent publication with a global vision is [Public-Private Partnerships, Financial Extraction and the Growing Wealth Gap: Exploring the connection](#). PPPs are now used in more than 134 developing countries, are on the rise in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, and have moved from physical infrastructure into the provision of “social infrastructure,” such as schools, hospitals and health services. The result is not greater investment where it’s needed but a tendency for the public sector to carry all the risks of a project while the profits extracted go to the private sector and – usually - out of the country.

Trading away access to medicines?

Oxfam-Solidarite publishes a wake-up call directed at the European Union as the new Commissioners take office, and demands that [patients come before profits](#) in the negotiations over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP). It fears that the pharma industry’s goal of patent harmonization based on US law would mean less generic competition, and more monopolies and unaffordable medicines. Another pharma goal is more influence over the pricing and reimbursement policies of EU member states. Click [here](#) for a post on Global Health Check (scroll down to second article).

Social Medicine

The [latest issue](#) examines different aspects of the social determinants of health and disease.

WHO reform

WHO reform: consultations with non-state actors

The process rolls on, with documents now available for the European region: [EUR/RC64/16](#) - WHO reform: progress and implications for the European Region

[EUR/RC64/22](#) - Framework of engagement with non-State actors: report by the Secretariat to the regional committees

[Ebola and WHO reform: who cares?](#)

Charles Clift, Centre on Global Health Security, argues that the Ebola crisis has highlighted the importance of the WHO in coordinating international action on emerging infectious disease threats. But has it also revealed deficiencies in its performance?

Nutrition, infant feeding

Nutrition, health and the private sector

Jonathan Marks argues in the *British Medical Journal* (October 2014) that now is a critical moment in [nutrition and global health policy](#).

Breastfeeding Brief no. 56-57

The latest brief from IBFAN sets out the [advantages, disadvantages and risks of ready-to-use foods](#), guest editor Ted Greiner. Translations will shortly be available.

Right to Nutrition Watch 2014

Civil society organizations and social movements around the world have recently organized events and campaigns to launch the report, [Right to Food and Nutrition Watch 2014](#), which marks the ten-year anniversary of the FAO *Voluntary Guidelines to support the progressive realization of the right to adequate food in the context of national food security*. This year's edition highlights the threat to food security posed by corporate and economic interests that are gaining influence over policy and taking control of food systems and natural resources. You can like and follow the Watch on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RtFNWatch>.

Governance, agency and fundamental principles in nutrition

The Society for International Development has published a [statement](#) by public interest civil society organizations in preparation for the International Conference on Nutrition, November 2014.

Mental Health

New projects under mhGAP

The [Mental Health Innovation Network](#) has posted that Kashmir, India, has been accepted by WHO as one of the [mhGAP innovation projects](#). For more about mhGAP, WHO's Mental Health Gap Action Programme, click [here](#).

Health and Human Rights

The right to health: A multi-country study of law, policy and practice

This [recently-published book](#) looks the implementation of the right to health: covering five different regions and thirteen countries.

The impact of rights-based approaches to health

The [Health and Human Rights Journal](#) will publish a special issue in December 2015, with selected papers appearing online starting in August 2015, on the Evidence of Impact of Human Rights-Based Approaches to Health. Submissions are welcome including but not limited to women's and children's health, and should be sent to HHRSubmissions@hsph.harvard.edu by February 15, 2015.

Preventing maternal deaths

While there has been a 45 percent decline in maternal deaths worldwide since 1990, nearly 300,000 women died from pregnancy related complications in 2013. On 25 September this year the UN Human Rights Council passed its 5th resolution to Address Preventable Maternal Deaths. For more on the session, please see the recent news article, [Preventing Maternal Death](#), and [press release](#) from the Center for Reproductive Rights. The Center has also just launched the book [From Risk to Rights: Realizing States' Obligations to Prevent and Address Maternal Mortality](#).

See too the website of the [National Alliance for Maternal Health and Human Rights](#), and in particular the launch of its report, *Dead Women Talking: A Civil Society Report on Maternal Deaths in India*.

Announcements

Symposium on medical technology

The WHO, WTO, and WIPO will organize their [fourth joint technical symposium](#) on the theme of 'Innovation and access to medical technologies: challenges and opportunities for middle income countries'. At WTO on 5 November 2014.

Opioid overdose: new WHO guidelines

The WHO Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse will shortly launch new guidelines on the Community Management of Opioid Overdose. Opioid overdose is second only to HIV as a cause of drug-related death and a number of countries have seen dramatic increases in recent years. Launch meeting at WHO on 5 November 2014: contact chidseyl@who.int.

Conference on public health and nutrition

The Centre for Science in the Public Interest (CSPI) is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the Fourth Biennial [Championing Public Health Nutrition](#) conference to be held at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau, Quebec on November 25-26, 2014.

The Forum Newsletter aims to provide information to members and cooperating organisations and serve as a platform for sharing updates, ideas and experiences. Please send us material you want to share at: info@ngo-forum-health.ch

Visit our website at: <http://ngo-forum-health.ch/>