



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

Newsletter

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Health News

***Health in Africa* initiative failing to reach the poor**

Health In Africa is a \$1 billion investment project launched by the International Finance Corporation in 2008 to improve “access to quality health-related goods and services in Africa [and] financial protection against the impoverishing effects of illness”, through harnessing the potential of the private health sector. It also committed to making extra efforts to “improve the availability of health care to Africa’s poor and rural population” – essential as part of an organization, the World Bank Group, with the [overarching goal to end extreme poverty](#) by 2030. However, an Oxfam report on the initiative - [Investing for the Few](#) - finds that far from delivering health care for the poorest, *Health In Africa* has favoured high-end urban hospitals, most of them targetting a country’s wealthy and expatriate populations. *Health In Africa* has also failed to deliver expansion of health care at any sufficient scale or pace to meaningfully contribute towards Universal Health Coverage.

Further information is available from [Global Health Check](#).

Health and safety at the workplace in the face of Ebola

The WHO and ILO have published a timely [briefing note](#) for workers and employers on Ebola Virus Disease, covering basic information and focusing on occupational safety and health risks, preventing Ebola at the workplace, and the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers.

[Reclaiming public health through community-based monitoring](#)

In this paper from [the Municipal Services Project](#), the authors argue that community-based monitoring and planning of health services in Maharashtra, India, represents an innovative participatory approach to improving accountability and healthcare delivery. They ask whether this experience could inform ‘communitization’ of health services in diverse contexts as an alternative to privatization.

Bureaucracy consumes one-quarter of US hospitals' budgets: authors say single-payer reform could save \$150 billion annually

A [study](#) of hospital administrative costs in eight nations published in the September issue of [Health Affairs](#) finds that hospital bureaucracy consumed 25.3 percent of hospital budgets in the U.S. in 2011, far more than in other nations. Administrative costs were lowest (about 12 percent) in Scotland and Canada, whose single-payer systems fund hospitals through global, lump-sum budgets, much as a fire department is funded in the U.S.

The study is the first analysis of administrative costs across multiple nations with widely varying health systems. It was carried out by an international team from the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany and the Netherlands, and was coordinated by researchers at the City University of New York (CUNY) and the London School of Economics.

Further information on US hospital funding from [Physicians for a National Health Program](#), a nonprofit research and educational organization.

World premiere of Danis Tanovic's 'Tigers' gains standing ovation for Nestlé whistle blower: Canadian Government commends bravery of Syed Aamir Raza

The film 'Tigers' tells the story of Syed Aamar Raza, the former Nestlé formula salesman, and his wife Shafqat, who took on the world's largest food company when they realised that babies were dying as a result of aggressive marketing. They were supported by campaigners from the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN).

See full press release for quotes, photos and links to supporting information: <http://www.babymilkaction.org/archives/1931>. IBFAN will post information on other screening dates as they become available on its special Tigers webpage: <http://www.babymilkaction.org/tigers>

[The International Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems \(ICD\)](#)

The ICD is the official WHO classification of diseases, health conditions and related health problems. The 194 Member States of the WHO agree to use the ICD as the standard for collecting and reporting information related to health conditions. This allows for the systematic tracking of mortality, morbidity and disease burden internationally and throughout time.

What's new? The WHO is working on the 11th revision, planned for publication in 2017, which is likely to delete categories for diagnoses based primarily on sexual orientation.

Swedish Workplace HIV & AIDS Programme (SWHAP)

The latest newsletter, and other useful information, is available on the [SWHAP website](#) or [Facebook page](#).

Mental Health

Preventing suicide: a global imperative

Suicides take a high toll. Over 800 000 people die due to suicide every year and it is the second leading cause of death in 15-29-year-olds. Suicides are also preventable.

The [world suicide report](#) was recently launched by the WHO and is available in various language versions. The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse is working on a programme of actions and collaborations.

Health and Human Rights

News from the Center for Reproductive Rights

The [Center](#) has just published an updated version of the toolkit [Whose Right to Life?: Women's Rights and Prenatal Protections under Human Rights and Comparative Law](#). This new resource examines international standards and national court precedents on the right to life before birth. Also recently launched is [Abortion Worldwide: 20 Years of Reform](#), a new publication tracking changes to abortion laws since the International Conference on Population and Development's (ICPD).

The Center also publishes a regular Reproductive Rights Rundown. The September 2014 edition highlights reproductive rights developments in UN Treaty Monitoring Bodies, the key interpretative bodies of international human rights law.

Announcements

2015 Social Forum of the UN Human Rights Council: access to medicine

[The Social Forum](#) will take place 18-20 February 2015 at the Palais des Nations. The theme this year will be *'Access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health'*.

Follow this link for a guide on how to participate:

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/SForum/SForum2012/Guide_Social_Forum_EN.pdf

[Autistic Minority International](#) organized a side event during the 2014 Social Forum, and are open to exploring possible joint activities in 2015. Contact Erich Kofmel: e.kofmel@autisticminority.org

Beijing+20 Review process

Forum members and friends are invited to engage with the [Geneva Forum](#) for the regional review of the promises made in 1995 at the Beijing 4th World Conference on Women. This is being organized by the NGO-CSW Geneva committee on 3-5 November 2014, and one of the main objectives is to provide substantive input from Civil Society to the UN ECE intergovernmental Beijing+20 meeting that will take place right afterwards.

[Online registration](#) is open. Registration deadline is 25 October 2014.

Nonviolent Communication workshop: 'Empathy and Self-Connection'

A workshop in to learn and practice the foundations of dialogue will be held on 18 and 19 October 2014 (10.00 – 18.00) in Geneva with international trainer Yoram Mosenzon (Netherlands/ Israel). Venue: Le Cenacle, 17 promenade Charles-Martin, 1208 Geneva. Price: 300 CHF for the weekend.

Contact: Benedetta Barabino, benedetta.barabino@dance-with-me.org, +41 79 294 9828

New: *EBioMedicine*

EBioMedicine is a new, online, open-access journal from **Elsevier**, covering the entire spectrum from **basic science** to **clinical research** with editorial support from **The Lancet** and **Cell Press**. Its primary goal is to “help translate clinically relevant research insights into practical tools for the betterment of human health. Researchers and practitioners are invited to [submit papers](#) for publication.

New publication: The Right to Health: a Multi-Country Study of Law, Policy and Practice

The latest publication from TCM [Asser Press](#) and [Springer](#) takes up the challenge of translating international and national human rights law into operational policies, programmes and concrete health-related interventions.

Global Health Watch 4

GHW is widely perceived as an important voice for an alternative discourse on health. It integrates rigorous analysis, alternative proposals and stories of struggles and change. Find out more by visiting: www.ghwatch.org.

The fourth edition, [GHW4](#), is a collaborative effort by activists and academics from across the world. Published by ZED Books, it will be available from 13 November 2014.

Social Medicine

Social Medicine is a bilingual, academic, open-access journal published since 2006 by the Department of Family and Social Medicine at Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine and the Latin American Social Medicine Association (ALAMES). [Vol 8, No 1 \(2014\)](#) is currently available.

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/>