

NURSING & MIDWIFERY

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Collaborating Centres For Nursing & Midwifery Development

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Newsletters

2008-2014 Secretariat Report

LINKS

JULY 2014

GLOBAL NETWORK

NURSING
AND
MIDWIFERY

WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES



Volume 11

Nursing & Midwifery Links aims to disseminate information on the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Development and publish technical-scientific articles related to Nursing and Midwifery in the light of WHO's program of work.

THE CONTENTS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES EXPRESS THE VIEWS OF AUTHORS AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS AND OPINIONS OF THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WHO COLLABORATING CENTRES FOR NURSING & MIDWIFERY DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT.

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Presentation

Enhancing communication among Network members and the global Nursing and Midwifery community

The Global Network of the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Development (GNWHOCC) is aimed at supporting WHO activities in order to achieve common strategic goals. For this reason, the 2008-2014 Secretariat conceived a plan of action prioritizing initiatives valuing the sharing of information among members and with the international community.

Hence, a key activity planned in Action 1.4 of the Plan of Action of the 2008-2014 Secretariat was 'to develop and publish a three-monthly newsletter about the main activities being developed by WHO, regional offices and other stakeholders about contents related to priority areas, for electronic distribution', being the goal to Enhance communication between the GNWHOCC and the general public.

Therefore, since 2010, the GNWHOCC, hosted at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Research Development at the University of São Paulo at Ribeirão Preto College of Nursing/Brazil, has edited newsletters gathering information regarding specific health issues selected from the websites of the Global Network, WHO and other partners. In addition, the newsletters have included publications sharing results of reports and research projects conducted within the WHO system. Two factors mainly influenced the selection of the news: first, the relevance of the information to Nursing and Midwifery and, second, the geographic location it was related to, as an attempt to represent the different WHO regions. Those factors have played a vital role in the selection process not only considering the relevance of the information itself, but also by the emphasis on cooperation, the essence of the Global Network.

In sum, this Global Network Secretariat believed that information sharing fosters the convergence of actors concerned with Health issues, enabling the achievement of effective outcomes. This was our main goal with the publication of the newsletters in the last four years.

It is also important to mention that as the publication evolved, and considering the dynamics of a fast changing world, especially regarding information sharing, we decided to publish more issues than the original plan, a three-monthly newsletter. As a result, this publication assembles the 101 Newsletters which have been published twice a month in the last four years, highlighting global health themes of interest to the Nursing & Midwifery community.



Isabel Amelia Costa Mendes, RN, PhD
Secretary-General



Carla Aparecida Arena Ventura, PhD
Executive Coordinator

The Secretariat of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery development shares with its members and society its acknowledgment to the Ministry of Health of Brazil and the Pan-American Health Organization – Brazil for their essential support to the Secretariat's activities.



Newsletters

2010

Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development



Newsletter

April 15th, 2010



Since July 2008, the **WHO Collaborating Centre for Nursing Research Development at the University of São Paulo at Ribeirão Preto College of Nursing, Brazil**, has the privilege of coordinating the Global Network. Through the Global Network website, we aim to maximize the visibility of our members' collaborative activities and disseminate relevant information on Nursing and Midwifery.

[Find out more](#)

WHO GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR STRENGTHENING NURSING AND MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN THE AFRICAN REGION 2007–2017

[Click here to download](#)



World Health Day 2010 focuses on the problems that are intimately related to urbanization and how they affect people's health. Among them, air pollution is a major environmental risk to health and is estimated to cause approximately 2 million premature deaths worldwide per year.

[Read more](#)



Possible health effects of the volcanic ash cloud

The WHO Regional Office for Europe is closely assessing the situation, including the possible health impact, of the volcanic eruption in Iceland that occurred on 14 April 2010.

[Read more](#)

The Global Network of World Health Organization Collaborating Centres for Nursing & Midwifery Development newsletter is aimed at the dissemination of information about Health, Nursing & Midwifery to members and the general public.

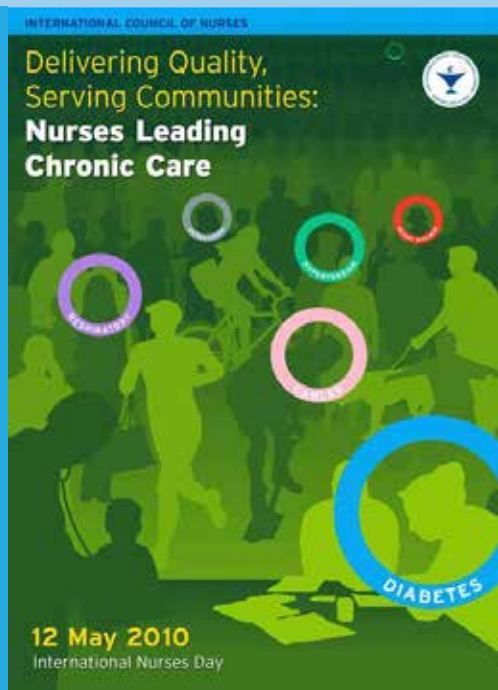
Global Network General-Secretary: Isabel Amélia Costa Mendes
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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Development



Newsletter

April 30th, 2010

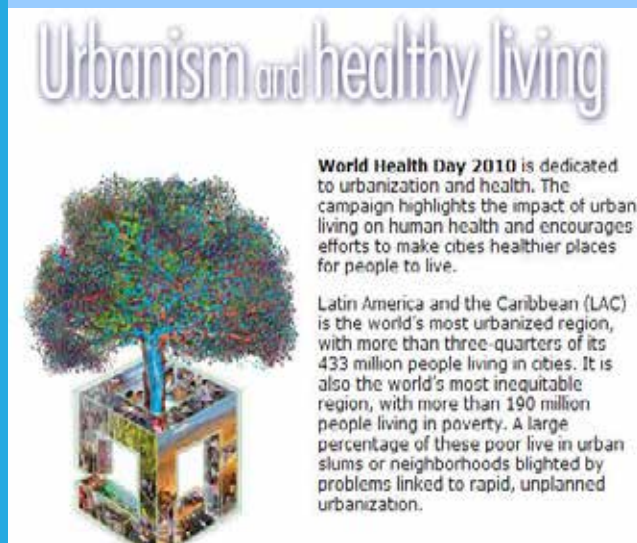


International Nurses Day is celebrated around the world every **May 12**, the anniversary of **Florence Nightingale's birth**.

The **International Council of Nurses** commemorates this important day each year with the production and distribution of the **International Nurses' Day (IND) Kit**. The IND kit 2010, contains educational and public information materials, for use by nurses everywhere.

The IND theme for 2010 is: ***Delivering Quality, Serving Communities: Nurses Leading Chronic Care.***

To download the IND Kit, [visit the website](#)



About this year's theme

Urbanization: a challenge for public health



[Find out more](#)

What is PAHO/WHO doing?

- Promoting social justice and equity in health
- Mobilizing intersectoral action for health
- Encouraging the development of health systems based on primary health care
- Gathering and disseminating evidence on the social, economic; and other benefits of promoting health and preventing health problems
- Developing assessment tools to identify problems and design appropriate responses
- Building capacity and expertise in health promotion, health determinants; and local development
- Promoting the use of georeferences to address inequities, e.g., using census and other locally available data to analyze and map social determinants of health and identify vulnerable communities and populations

Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Development



Newsletter

May 15th, 2010

AIEC was established on the first of August 1990 in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO). The establishment of the Centre was in response to the tremendous needs in the region of accurate and culturally adapted information as well as exchange of experiences particularly in the field of prevention and control and health promotion for HIV/AIDS/STD.



[Find out more](#)

HIV testing in the WHO Western Pacific Region

Internationally, there are ongoing efforts to scale up access to HIV testing and counselling to achieve universal access to prevention, care, treatment and support for all who need it by 2010. As a result, there is an urgent need for specific regional technical guidance in the area of HIV testing in low- and concentrated- epidemic settings, to complement global technical guidelines already published by WHO. These guidelines must consider the current testing practices and need to explore same-day results for HIV testing throughout the Western Pacific Region.

[Click here to download](#)



With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs.

[Find out more](#)



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

May 30th,
2010



Equity, social determinants and public health programmes



Equity, social determinants and public health programmes

This book analyses the impact of social determinants on specific health conditions. It presents promising interventions to improve health equity for: alcohol-related disorders, cardiovascular diseases, child health and nutrition, diabetes, food safety, maternal health, mental health, neglected tropical diseases, oral health, pregnancy outcomes, tobacco and health, tuberculosis, and violence and injuries.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

WHO develops health advisories for 2010 FIFA World Cup

The World Health Organization (WHO) has developed three health advisories for the 2010 FIFA World Cup which kicks off in South Africa on 11 June. Click on the links below and download the three health advisories.

- [Health advice for Travellers to South Africa for the 2010 FIFA World Cup](#)
- [A Guide on Safe Food for Travellers](#)
- [The 3 Fives](#)

The advisories, which have been endorsed by FIFA and the South African Department of Health, are expected to be launched on 9 June by the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon.

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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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NEWSLETTER

June 15th,
2010



Cancer cases rising in developing countries

Developing countries account for 63% of all cancer deaths and 56% of new cases. These are the findings of a newly released cancer statistics tool. The online tool called GLOBOCAN 2008 was launched by WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer. The interactive tool can produce maps and graphics of cancer cases occurring around the world.

International Agency for Research on Cancer



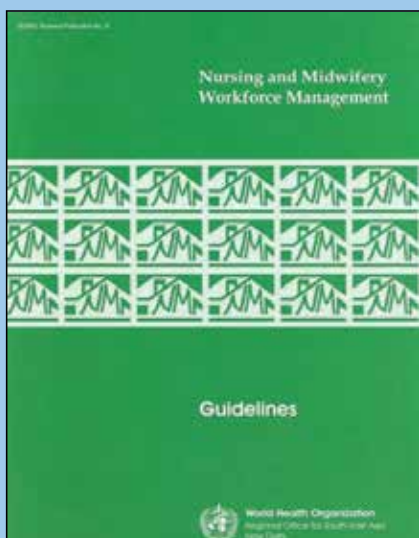
[Find out more](#)



Restrictions Urged on Cigarette Makers' Efforts to Lure Women into Smoking Addiction

To help protect women from the lethal effects of smoking, countries in the Americas should promptly implement tobacco control measures, including the total prohibition of publicity, promotion, and sponsorship by tobacco companies and protection against exposure to second-hand smoke, Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Director Dr. Mirta Roses said today.

[Read more](#)



These guidelines have been developed by the South-East Asia Regional Multidisciplinary Advisory Group on Management of Nursing and Midwifery Workforce. They are to assist member countries in managing priority issues confronting the nursing and midwifery workforce identified in the in-depth country assessments.

[Click here to download the guidelines](#)



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

June 30th,
2010



A global survey monitoring progress in nursing and midwifery

In 2002, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued resolution WHA54.12, calling attention to the global shortage of nurses and midwives, and urging Member States to take action towards improving nursing and midwifery services. Later that year, the WHO went on to publish Strategic directions for strengthening nursing and midwifery services, which provided a framework of five key result areas to guide Member States in enhancing their support of nurses and midwives. Specifically, this document recommended improvements in the areas of human resources and planning, management of personnel, evidence-based practice, education and stewardship.



The current report summarizes information gathered from Member States about their progress towards meeting the WHO's targeted objectives, and provides a preliminary analysis of the influence that initiatives are having on the effectiveness of certain policies as well as several population health outcomes.

Responses from 77 Member States were collected and categorized according to Human Development Index ratings. Results showed that many respondent Member States have made efforts to meet the key results areas and Millennium Development Goals outlined in the Strategic directions for strengthening nursing and midwifery services. Progress was not limited to high HDI ranked Member States, but was also evident in many medium and low HDI ranked Member States. Despite their efforts, however, over 70(%) of survey respondents indicated that their country was experiencing a shortage of nurses and midwives, suggesting a continued need for intervention and improvement of these services.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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NEWSLETTER

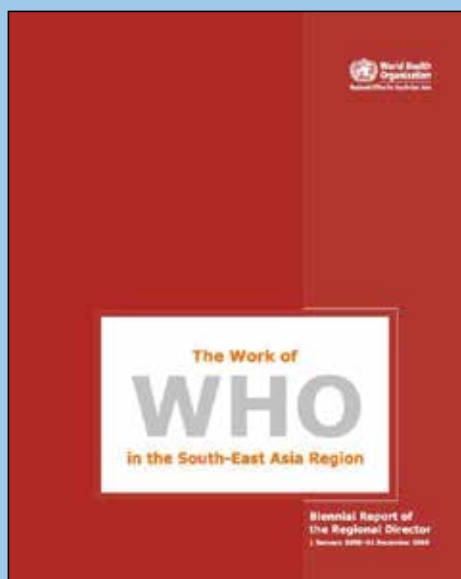
July 15th,
2010



WHO and the International Olympic Committee sign agreement to improve healthy lifestyles

Physical activity can reduce the risk of noncommunicable diseases

[Read more](#)



The Work of WHO in the South-East Asia Region, 2010

As the lead UN agency in international health development, WHO has been collaborating with its Member States in the South-East Asia Region to strengthen national capacity in several areas of priority interest. Accounting for nearly one fourth of the global population the Region also carries a heavy burden of communicable and noncommunicable diseases. These factors are further compounded by inadequate resources and pose a unique challenge, which are being addressed by policy makers in the Region. This biennial report on the Work of WHO in the South-East Asia Region for the period 1 January 2008 - 31 December 2009, covers the major areas of WHO collaboration, highlighting the achievements, challenges and the way forward. This report will be found most useful for all those interested in health development in the Region."

[Click here and download the publication](#)



WHO calls for united action against HIV in Europe

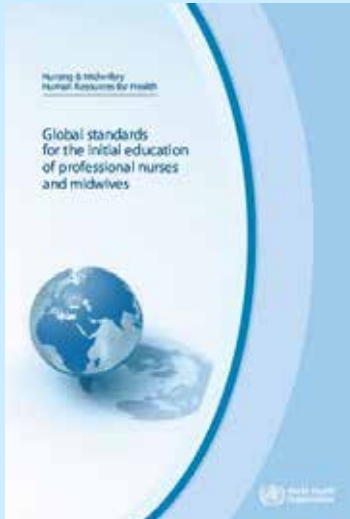
[Read more](#)



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

July 30th,
2010



Global standards for the initial education of professional nurses and midwives

WHO Europe

Nurses and midwives comprise the majority of health care professionals in Europe and thus play a key role in the successful delivery of health services. In line with the growing international health workforce crisis, the WHO European Region currently faces serious shortages of well-qualified nurses and midwives.

To safeguard the future health workforce and the provision of high-quality health care, steps must be taken to ensure that nursing and midwifery are seen as attractive career options. Nurses and midwives must have a solid evidence-based education that enables them to meet the changing needs of a population by working, on their own and in teams with other professionals, along the entire continuum of health and illness. In addition, their work needs systematic evaluation to show its efficiency and effectiveness, and they need to be involved in decision-making for health policy.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

EVENT





Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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NEWSLETTER

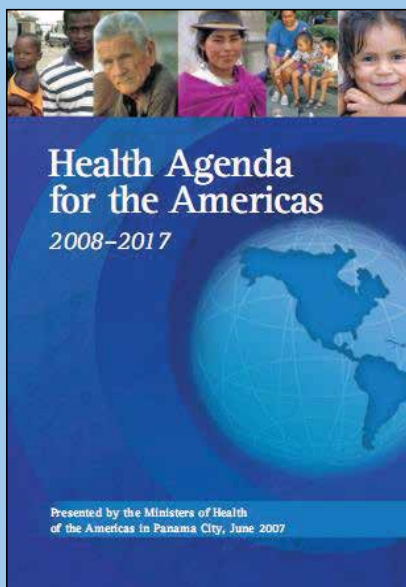
Aug 15th,
2010



Young people: health risks and solutions

Most young people are healthy. However, more than 1.8 million young people aged 15 to 24 die each year. A much greater number of young people suffer from illnesses which hinder their ability to grow and develop to their full potential.

[Read more](#)



Health Agenda for the Americas 2008-2017

The Governments of the Region of the Americas jointly establish this Health Agenda to guide the collective action of national and international stakeholders who seek to improve the health of the peoples of this Region over the next decade.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

EVENTS



Sixtieth session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

Representatives from the 53 Member States in the WHO European Region will meet in Moscow, Russian Federation, from 13 to 16 September 2010.



Child maltreatment

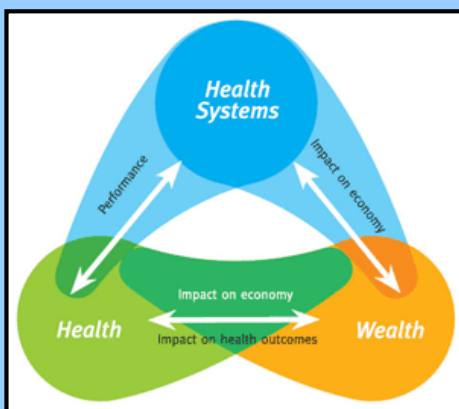
Child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect that occurs to children under 18 years of age. It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust or power. Exposure to intimate partner violence is also sometimes included as a form of child maltreatment.

[Read more](#)

Falls

A fall is defined as an event which results in a person coming to rest inadvertently on the ground or floor or other lower level. Fall-related injuries may be fatal or non-fatal¹ though most are non-fatal. For example, of children in the People's Republic of China, for every death due to a fall, there are 4 cases of permanent disability, 13 cases requiring hospitalization for more than 10 days, 24 cases requiring hospitalization for 1–9 days and 690 cases seeking medical care or missing work/school.

[Read more](#)



Making Health Systems Work Series

The "Making Health Systems Work" working paper series is designed to make current thinking and actual experience on different aspects of health systems available in a simple and concise format for busy decision makers. The papers are available in hard copy and on the WHO health system website.

[Find out more](#)



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

Sep 15th,
2010



The Nursing & Midwifery programme at WHO

What Nursing and Midwifery services mean to health

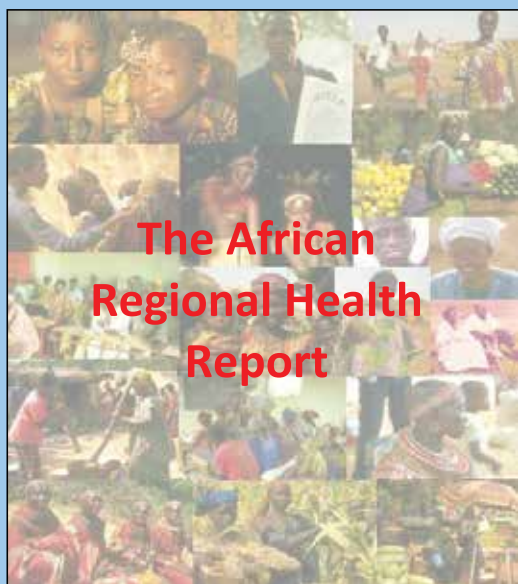
Nurses and midwives play a central role in health service delivery – promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation – in areas of great health need, where they may be the only frontline providers of health, especially in remote areas.

[Read more](#)

Launching of the course: "Tobacco and Public Health: from Theory to Practice"

The Tobacco Control team has launched the online course: "Tobacco and Public Health: from Theory to Practice". The team has been working in close collaboration with Health Canada, the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, and the Coordination of the Virtual Campus of Public Health to produce an online course on tobacco control in the Region of the Americas. The course provides the latest evidence-based information on tobacco control science, policy and practice, while highlighting many of the successful experiences in the Region. The course is available in both Spanish and English. The course is open and free but requires registration. A certificate is provided at the successful completion of the course.

[Link to course](#)



The African Regional Health Report

Public Health in Africa has come under the international spotlight in recent years. The sheer enormity of the disease burden in African countries and the often inadequate response has prompted many regional and international initiatives. More funds than ever before have been pledged for health in Africa, yet many problems prevail. This report is an excellent review of the public health situation across the WHO African Region that includes 46 African countries that are all Member States of the African Union.

[Click here to download the publication](#)



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

Sep 30th,
2010



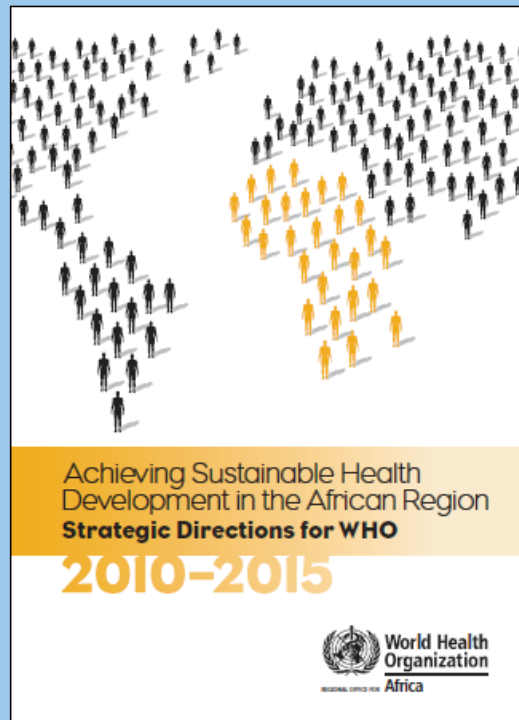
Public policy can combat chronic diseases

In Europe almost 60% of the disease burden is attributable to seven risk factors: high blood pressure, tobacco use, harmful use of alcohol, high blood cholesterol, overweight, low fruit and vegetable intake, and physical inactivity. Prevention can be supported by public policies that encourage individuals to make health choices.

[Read more](#)
[Find out more](#)

The weakness of national health systems in the African Region has been a matter of concern for decades. Despite ongoing efforts to improve health systems performance, some issues related to governance, health financing, human resources for health, health technologies, information systems and service delivery are yet to be addressed. There is, therefore, a need for continued work to update policies and strategies, and to translate them into sound strategic plans featuring well financed country operational plans and services that are accessible to the poor and most vulnerable, especially women and children.

[Click here to download the publication](#)



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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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NEWSLETTER

Oct 15th,
2010



The essential role of health professionals

Health workforces play a crucial role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Staff shortages impact the mortality of women and children, but only 5 of 49 low-income countries attain the minimum 23 doctors per 10 000 inhabitants recommended by WHO. As a result, WHO is promoting global and national solutions.

[Read more](#)

PAHO Responds to Cholera Outbreak in Haiti

The Pan American Health Organization said that it has received laboratory confirmation of cases of cholera in Haiti, in Artibonite province, and is responding to help the Ministry of Health assess the situation and respond appropriately to save lives. So far, PAHO has been informed that more than 1,500 cases of severe diarrhea and at least 138 deaths have been reported in St. Marc, Grande Saline, and Mirebalais.

[Read more](#)



Along U.S. – Mexico Border, Diabetes Cases Are the “Tip of the Iceberg”

For every three people diagnosed with diabetes along the U.S.–Mexico border, a fourth person has the condition but doesn’t know it, putting them at increased risk of heart disease and stroke as well as blindness, kidney failure, and amputations, according to studies published in the latest issue of the Pan American Journal of Public Health.

[Read more](#)



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

Oct 30th,
2010



We can eliminate HIV/AIDS among children by 2015



Although new HIV infections show a downward trend in countries of the World Health Organization's South-East Asia Region, particularly India, Thailand, Nepal and Myanmar, HIV/AIDS is still a serious public health problem. Perhaps the most vulnerable group are children with HIV/AIDS, whose numbers have increased by 46% between 2001 and 2009. Elimination of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015 is possible and WHO is committed to this goal.

"The threat of HIV/AIDS to children highlights the need to strengthen health systems at the primary health care level and to integrate HIV-specific interventions within broader maternal and child health services," said Dr Samlee Plianbangchang, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia.

Globally, an estimated 33.3 million people live with the virus, and 2.6 million were newly infected in 2009. In the WHO South-East Asia Region, 3.5 million people are living with HIV/AIDS, largely in India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal and Thailand. In 2009, there were an estimated 220 000 new HIV infections in the Region and 230 000 people died of AIDS related illnesses.

[Read more](#)

Better diagnostics and new drugs essential for fighting tuberculosis

WHO and the STOP TB partnerships are advocating a new approach to eliminating tuberculosis through improved, quicker diagnosis, more effective drugs and vaccines and stronger health systems. This approach has been set out in "The Global Plan to Stop TB 2011-2015: Transforming the Fight", launched in Berlin, Germany. The goal is to reach the UN Millennium Development Goal (MDG) of halting and reversing the TB epidemic by 2015, and halving the number of deaths due to the disease compared to 1990 levels. The ultimate aim is to eliminate TB as a public health problem by 2050.

[Find out more](#)

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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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NEWSLETTER

Nov 15th,
2010



HIV rising in Europe

HIV/AIDS is a major public health challenge in the WHO European Region, and evidence indicates that HIV transmission is rapidly increasing in many countries. Countries in the eastern part of the Region now have the fastest-growing HIV epidemic in the world.

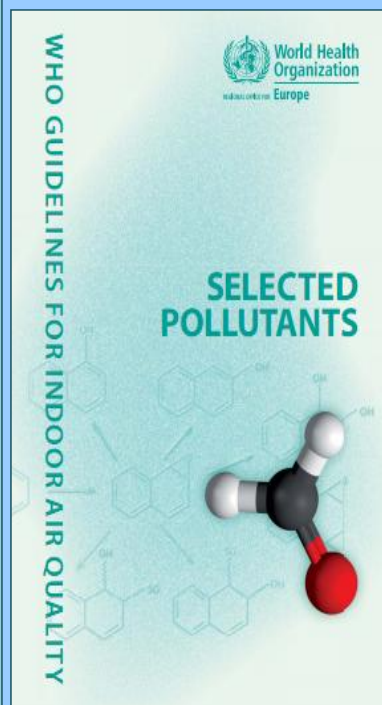
[Read more](#)

WHO guidelines for indoor air quality: selected pollutants

This book presents WHO guidelines for the protection of public health from a number of chemicals commonly present in indoor air. The substances considered – benzene, carbon monoxide, formaldehyde, naphthalene, nitrogen dioxide, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (especially benzo[a]pyrene), radon, trichloroethylene and tetrachloroethylene have indoor sources, are known for their hazardousness to health and are often found indoors in concentrations of concern to health. For each substance, the chapter covers a general description, the sources and pathways of exposure, the indoor–outdoor relationship, kinetics and metabolism, the health effects, a health risk evaluation, the guidelines, a summary box and references.

These guidelines are targeted at public health professionals involved in preventing the health risks of environmental exposures, as well as at specialists and authorities involved in the design and use of buildings, indoor materials and products. They provide a scientific basis for legally enforceable standards.

[Download the publication](#)



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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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NEWSLETTER

Nov 30th,
2010



Revolutionary new meningitis vaccine can wipe out deadly epidemics in Africa

The West African nation of Burkina Faso became the first country to begin a nationwide campaign to introduce a new meningitis vaccine that promises to rid the entire region of the primary cause of epidemic meningitis.

[Read more](#)

Guidelines for intensified tuberculosis case-finding and isoniazid preventive therapy for people living with HIV in resource-constrained settings



HIVTB

Guidelines for intensified tuberculosis case-finding and isoniazid preventive therapy for people living with HIV in resource-constrained settings

The guidelines show how people with HIV can be protected from tuberculosis with regular, low-cost preventive medication. The guidelines present a set of recommendations that will help reduce TB disease in people living with HIV, their families and communities through a combination of screening for TB and provision of IPT. Target audience: health-care workers providing care for people living with HIV, policy-makers and health programme managers working in the field of HIV /AIDS and TB.

[Download the publication](#)

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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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NEWSLETTER

Dec 15th,
2010



2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases

Working in partnership to prevent and control the four noncommunicable diseases — cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers and chronic respiratory diseases and the four shared risk factors - tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and the harmful use of alcohol.

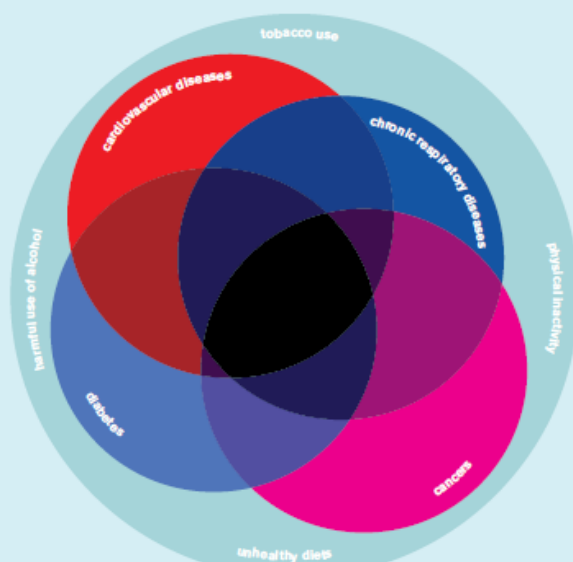
This document is written primarily for the community of international development partners, as well as those in government and civil society concerned with urgent action to address the rapidly increasing burden of noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) in low- and middle-income countries and its serious implications for poverty reduction and economic development.

[Download the publication](#)

Working in partnership to prevent and control the 4 noncommunicable diseases — cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancers and chronic respiratory diseases and the 4 shared risk factors — tobacco use, physical inactivity, unhealthy diets and the harmful use of alcohol.



2008-2013 Action Plan for the Global Strategy for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases



Containing antimicrobial resistance

Containment of antimicrobial resistance is the topic for World Health Day in April 2011. It comes ten years after WHO published its global containment strategy on the same theme. This *WHO Bulletin* article explains that antimicrobial resistance strikes at the core of infectious disease control and has the potential to halt, and possibly even to roll back, progress.

[Read more](#)

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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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NEWSLETTER

Dec 30th,
2010



A new meningitis vaccine for Africa

As many as 450 million people are at risk from meningococcal A disease, the primary cause of epidemic meningitis across Africa. The disease kills thousands every year. Major group A epidemics occur every 7-14 years and are particularly devastating to children and young adults. The sickest patients typically die within 24 to 48 hours of the onset of symptoms. Of those who survive, 10 to 20 percent suffer brain damage, hearing loss or a learning disability.

[Read more](#)

2010: A Year of Health Challenges for Haiti

For Haiti's health sector, 2010 was a year of unprecedented challenges. The January 12 earthquake claimed the lives of more than 200,000 Haitians, including some 300 health workers, and injured many thousands more, while causing serious damage and disruption to health infrastructure, services and supply lines. The cholera epidemic added new difficulties just as the health sector was beginning to recover and rebuild.

[Read more](#)



EVENT



[Find out more](#)

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GLOBAL NETWORK



Newsletters

2011



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development



NEWSLETTER

Jan 15th,
2011



World Health Statistics

WHO's annual World Health Statistics reports present the most recent health statistics for WHO's 193 Member States.

[Download the publication](#)

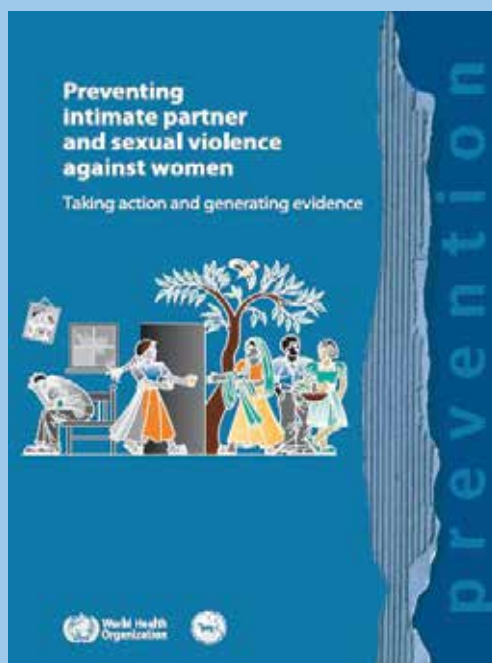
WORLD HEALTH STATISTICS 2010



Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women

Taking action and generating evidence

This document aims to provide sufficient information for policy-makers and planners to develop data-driven and evidence-based programmes for preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women.



[Download the document](#)

An innovative test for diagnosing diabetes

A new test for diagnosing diabetes mellitus offers a more practical approach to test for the disease that affects over 220 million people worldwide. WHO's Assistant Director-General of Noncommunicable Diseases and Mental Health, Dr Alwan, says "unlike other means of diagnosis, it does not require a patient to fast before a blood sample is taken."

[Read more](#)

[Find out more about diabetes](#)

Exclusive breastfeeding for six months best for babies everywhere

WHO recommends mothers worldwide to exclusively breastfeed infants for the child's first six months to achieve optimal growth, development and health. Thereafter, they should be given nutritious complementary foods and continue breastfeeding up to the age of two years or beyond.

[Read more](#)





Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

Jan 30th,
2011



The Malaria Eradication Research Agenda (malERA) initiative

A collection of 12 reviews highlight the outcomes of consultations of over 250 experts undertaken by the Malaria Eradication Research Agenda (malERA) initiative. It is hoped that these research and development priorities will contribute to the ultimate goal of malaria elimination and eradication.

[Read more](#)



Reducing the marketing of unhealthy foods to children

About 43 million pre-school children worldwide are obese or overweight. Globally, children are exposed to the marketing of unhealthy foods (through television, internet and printed ads) and evidence shows that advertisements influence children's food preferences. WHO's marketing recommendations aim to reduce the exposure of children to advertisements of unhealthy foods.

[Read more](#)



Yellow fever in Côte d'Ivoire

WHO is responding to an outbreak of yellow fever in the Côte d'Ivoire. So far a total of 64 suspected cases and 25 deaths have been identified. The Ministry of Health of Côte d'Ivoire has started an emergency vaccination campaign targeting over 840 000 people aged nine months and older, with support from WHO and UNICEF.

[Read more](#)



[Find out more](#)





Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

Feb 15th,
2011



New-generation vaccine to save lives



An innovative vaccine will protect children against pneumococcal disease, which causes life-threatening illnesses such as pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis. Kenya is the fourth country to roll out the vaccine as part of its immunization programme. In the past three months, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone and Yemen have also introduced the vaccine.

[Read more](#)

Reducing harmful alcohol use



Harmful use of alcohol results in the death of 2.5 million people annually. The newly published *Global status report on alcohol and health* analyses alcohol consumption in over 100 individual country profiles. This evidence should allow countries to create policies to save lives and reduce the health impact of harmful alcohol drinking.

[Read more](#)



Physical activity can help reduce risk of some cancers

Just 150 minutes of moderate physical activity a week can reduce the risk of breast and colon cancers. This is according to the new *Global Recommendations on Physical Activity for Health* released by WHO on World Cancer Day.

[Read more](#)

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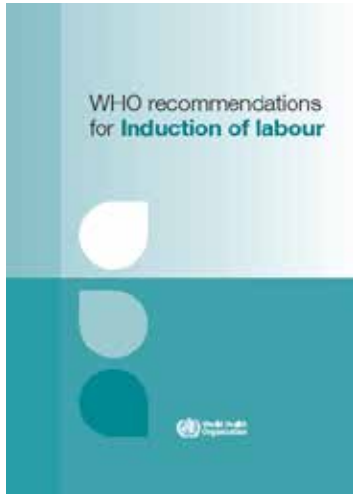
Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

Feb 28th,
2011



WHO recommendations for induction of labour

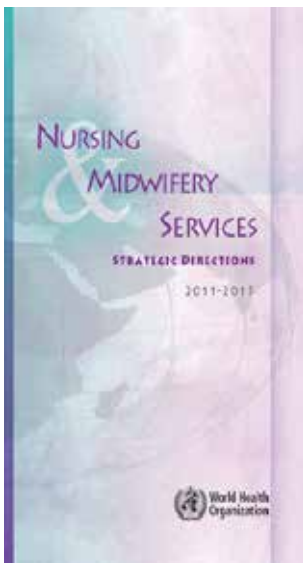


The primary goal of the present guidelines is to improve the quality of care and outcomes for pregnant women undergoing induction of labour in under-resourced settings. The target audience of these guidelines includes obstetricians, midwives, general medical practitioners, health-care managers and public health policy-makers.

The guidance provided is evidence-based and covers selected topics related to induction of labour that were regarded as critical priority questions by an international, multidisciplinary group of health-care workers, consumers and other stakeholders.

[Download the publication](#)

Strategic Directions for Strengthening Nursing and Midwifery Services – 2011-2015



This document presents the newly updated strategic directions for strengthening nursing and midwifery services (SDNM) for the period 2011–2015.

Complementing and building on the 2002–2008 SDNM, it seeks to provide policymakers, practitioners and other stakeholders at every level with a flexible framework for broad-based, collaborative action to enhance the capacity of nurses and midwives to contribute to:

- universal coverage
- people-centred health care
- policies affecting their practice and working conditions, and the
- scaling up of national health systems to meet global goals and targets.

[Download the publication](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Mar 15th,
2011



International Women's Day celebrates 100 years



Over the last 100 years many advances have significantly improved the health of women but there is still more to be done. This year International Women's Day focuses on access to science and technology. New technology empowers women to take control of their health and enables them to benefit from innovative health campaigns often disseminated through online or mobile phone technology.

[Read more](#)

Nutritional Challenges



Malnutrition, in every form, presents significant threats to human health. Today the world faces a double burden of malnutrition that includes both undernutrition and overweight, especially in developing countries.

[Find out more](#)



What is nutrition? Nutrition is the intake of food, considered in relation to the body's dietary needs.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS

WHO International Conference on Environmental and Occupational Determinants of Cancer: Interventions for Primary Prevention

Place: Asturias, Spain

Date: 17–18 March 2011

[Find out more](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Mar 30th,
2011



Success of the new WHO Child Growth Standards

Over 140 countries have adopted the WHO Child Growth Standards that were launched in 2006. Dr Mercedes de Onis, head of the Organization's Growth Assessment and Surveillance Unit, told the *WHO Bulletin* that the growth standards are charts that are a simple but essential tool to gauge whether children are growing and developing as they should.

[Read more](#)



Fleeing the Libyan conflict

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya since the uprising in February. WHO has been helping neighbouring countries coordinate the medical response needed to provide support to people fleeing the unrest. This photo gallery illustrates the difficulties of people leaving the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

[Find out more](#)



Urgent action necessary to safeguard drug treatments

Drug resistance is becoming more severe and many infections are no longer easily cured, leading to prolonged and expensive treatment and greater risk of death. Under the theme "Combat Drug Resistance", WHO calls for urgent and concerted action to slow down the spread of drug resistance, limit its impact today and preserve medical advances for future generations.

[Find out more](#)



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NEWSLETTER

Apr 15th,
2011



The world health report - Health systems financing: the path to universal coverage

Good health is essential to human welfare and to sustained economic and social development. WHO's Member States have set themselves the target of developing their health financing systems to ensure that all people can use health services, while being protected against financial hardship associated with paying for them.

In this report, the World Health Organization maps out what countries can do to modify their financing systems so they can move more quickly towards this goal - universal coverage - and sustain the gains that have been achieved. The report builds on new research and lessons learnt from country experience. It provides an action agenda for countries at all stages of development and proposes ways that the international community can better support efforts in low income countries to achieve universal coverage and improve health outcomes.

[Find out more](#)



The Democratic Republic of the Congo introduces life-saving vaccine

The Democratic Republic of the Congo stepped up its immunization programme by including vaccines to combat pneumonia.

[Read more](#)



Haitian health care: a follow-up

Although there are many international agencies trying to improve the health situation in Haiti, it is Haitian doctors and nurses who hold the future in their hands. This story looks at a clinic and a small hospital run by Haitians who are improving the lives of their fellow citizens.

[Find out more](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Apr 30th,
2011



Clean care is safer care



Proper hand hygiene is one of the most simple and effective ways to reduce health care-associated infections, which affect hundreds of millions of patients every year. However, about 60% of health workers do not always follow best hand hygiene practices. For the third consecutive year, WHO is raising global awareness about hand hygiene in patient care to reduce the known burden of these infections.

[Find out more](#)

Haiti Presents Plan to Vaccinate 90 Percent of Children Under 1

Haiti has finalized a plan to ensure immunization against the country's most prevalent childhood diseases for at least 90 percent of children under 1 by 2015.



[Read more](#)

Headaches common but neglected

In the WHO European Region, 80% of adults (aged 18–65) have suffered from tension-type headache, and 15% have experienced migraine over the previous year, according to the “Atlas of headache disorders and resources in the world 2011” by WHO and Lifting the Burden. These rates are higher than in any other region. Further, 3.3% of adults in the Region experience headache on 15 or more days every month. Nevertheless, these disorders are underrecognized, underdiagnosed and undertreated.

[Find out more](#)

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NEWSLETTER

May 15th,
2011



Countries hit by health threats of infectious and chronic diseases

The *World Health Statistics 2011* released today shows that many countries are facing a double burden of disease. The prevalence of risk factors for chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart diseases and cancers is increasing while many countries are still struggling to reduce maternal and child deaths caused by infectious diseases.

[Read more](#)

International Day of the Midwife 2011

Over 350 000 women and 3.6 million newborns are dying needlessly each year. On the International Day of the Midwife, WHO acknowledges the significant impact of midwives; they are essential to the delivery of quality services before, during, and after childbirth for women and newborns.

[Find out more](#)

Accountability Commission for health of women and children

New recommendations call for an unprecedented level of accountability to save the lives of more women and children in developing countries. These new approaches will help ensure that pledges are honoured and resources spent in the most effective way.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS

Global Internet Day 2011



Join us to celebrate
Global Internet Day
2011 on Tuesday, May
17, 2011, from 10:00 am
to 12:00 pm (Eastern
Daylight Time)
at [http://www.paho.org/
virtual/internetday](http://www.paho.org/virtual/internetday)

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NEWSLETTER

May 30th,
2011



Eliminating congenital syphilis

More than 50% of newborn deaths and stillbirths related to syphilis could be prevented with simple, low cost interventions to increase coverage of screening and treatment of syphilis during pregnancy. The disease is responsible for nearly 500 000 perinatal deaths every year in sub-Saharan Africa alone. WHO has been advocating and supporting countries to eliminate congenital syphilis.

[Read more](#)



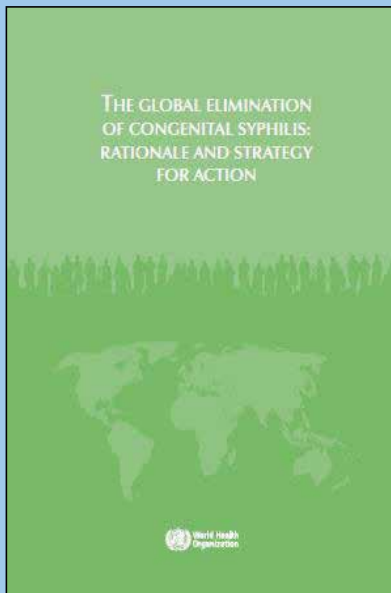
The global elimination of congenital syphilis: rationale and strategy for action

Overview

Syphilis remains a global problem with an estimated 12 million people infected each year, despite the existence of effective prevention measures, such as condoms, and effective and relatively inexpensive treatment options.

The overarching global goal of the present strategy is the elimination of congenital syphilis as a public health problem. This would be achieved through reduction of prevalence of syphilis in pregnant women and by the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of syphilis. The strategy rests on four pillars: (i) ensure sustained political commitment and advocacy; (ii) increase access to, and quality of, maternal and newborn health services; (iii) screen and treat pregnant women and their partners; and (iv) establish surveillance, monitoring and evaluation systems.

[Click here to download the publication](#)



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NEWSLETTER

Jun 15th,
2011



Food safety remains a constant challenge, says WHO

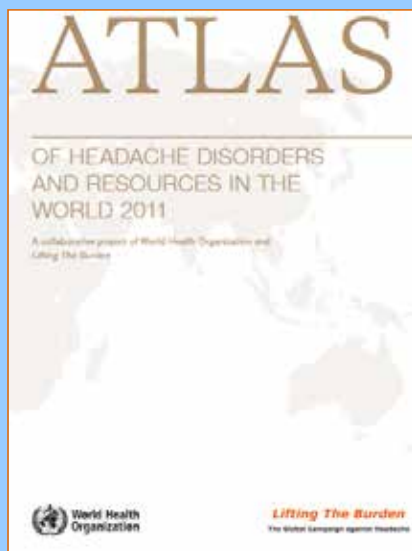
International team work is needed to keep food as safe as possible

The enterohaemorrhagic Escherichia coli (EHEC) outbreak in Germany has been the most serious ever recorded in the WHO European Region. Thirty-five people have died, and hundreds are still ill: this is the outbreak's sad toll on human health so far. The economic impact of this outbreak is still emerging. It has been a very difficult time for the German people and their institutions.

[Read more](#)



Atlas of headache disorders and resources in the world 2011



Despite that headache is felt at some time by nearly everybody, and almost half the world's adults at any one time have recent personal experience of one or more of the three very common headache disorders, much is unknown about the public-health impact of these conditions. It is not known how, or how much, they affect many of the populations of the world, or how healthcare and other resources are utilized to mitigate their effects.

This first global enquiry into these matters illuminates the worldwide neglect of this common health problem, and reveals the inadequacies of responses to it in countries throughout the world.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Jun 30th,
2011



Electromagnetic fields and public health: mobile phones

The electromagnetic fields produced by mobile phones are classified as possibly carcinogenic to humans. Studies are ongoing to more fully assess potential long-term effects of mobile phone use. Read the updated fact sheet on the subject that has just been released by WHO.



- Mobile phone use is ubiquitous with an estimated 4.6 billion subscriptions globally.
- The electromagnetic fields produced by mobile phones are classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as possibly carcinogenic to humans.
- Studies are ongoing to more fully assess potential long-term effects of mobile phone use.
- WHO will conduct a formal risk assessment of all studied health outcomes from radiofrequency fields exposure by 2012.

[Read more](#)

Ultraviolet radiation



Ultraviolet (UV) radiation is electromagnetic radiation, with wavelengths between 100 and 400 nm. Small amounts of UV radiation are essential for the production of vitamin D in humans, but exposure to large doses may have short- and long-term adverse effects on the skin, the eyes and the immune system.

[Find out more](#)

Global Health Observatory (GHO)

[Find out more](#)

Age standardized death rates: Measuring how many people die each year and why they have died is one of the most important means – along with gauging how various diseases and injuries are affecting the living – of assessing the effectiveness of a country's health system. Having those numbers helps health authorities determine whether they are focussing on the right kinds of public health actions that will reduce the number of preventable deaths and disease. Globally, around 57 million people die each year. Almost 15% of these deaths occur in children under the age of 5. Most of these preventable deaths in children occur in low- and middle-income countries.

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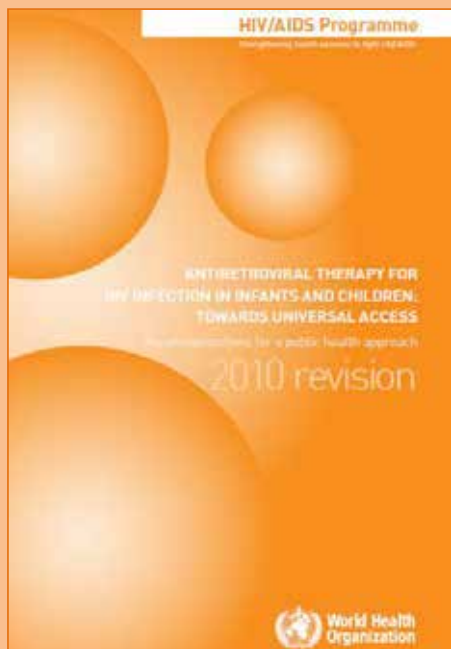
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NEWSLETTER

Jul 15th,
2011



These treatment guidelines serve as a framework for selecting the most potent and feasible first-line and second-line ART regimens for the care of HIV-infected infants and children.

These guidelines address the diagnosis of HIV infection and consider ART in different situations, e.g. where infants and children are coinfectd with HIV and TB, or have been exposed to ARVs, either for PMTCT or because of breastfeeding from an HIV-infected mother on ART. In addition, these guidelines address the importance of nutrition in the HIV-infected child and of recognizing the severity of malnutrition, especially in relation to the provision of ART. Adherence to therapy and resistance to ARVs are discussed. A section on ART in adolescents briefly outlines key issues related to treatment and care for this age group.

WHO recognizes the need to strengthen health systems with a view to maximizing the quality and long-term benefits of ART. Improved access to HIV diagnostic testing for infants and children is necessary to save lives. The inability to diagnose HIV infection as early as possible in infants and children severely limits access to ART and its timely initiation. Reliable access to immunological assays for assessing CD4 levels in children is crucial for guiding the initiation of treatment and for optimizing the maintenance of ART.

These guidelines are intended primarily for use by treatment advisory boards, national AIDS programme managers and other senior policy-makers who are involved in the planning of national and international HIV care strategies for infants and children in resource-limited countries. Elements of the guidelines such as the simplified dosing guidance (Annex E) are also designed for clinical implementation in the field.

[Download the publication](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Jul 30th,
2011



WHO warns against the use of inaccurate blood tests for active tuberculosis

The use of currently available commercial blood (serological) tests to diagnose active tuberculosis (TB) often leads to misdiagnosis, mistreatment and potential harm to public health, says WHO in a policy recommendation issued recently. WHO is urging countries to ban the inaccurate and unapproved blood tests and instead rely on accurate microbiological or molecular tests, as recommended by WHO.

[Find out more](#)

Hepatitis C is a global issue

More than 130 million people are currently living with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) and over 350 000 will die from liver diseases caused by HCV each year. To address this situation, WHO is raising awareness and understanding of viral hepatitis and the diseases that it causes with World Hepatitis Day on 28 July.

[Find out more](#)

[Read more](#)



Surgery as a public health intervention: common misconceptions versus the truth

Surgery is often still “the neglected stepchild of global health”. The *WHO Bulletin* explains that this is due to some common misperceptions that are not grounded in reality. For example, many people believe that surgical care only addresses a limited amount of the global burden of disease and thus is of low priority. In reality, injuries, which are often treated through surgical care, account for nearly one out of every ten deaths globally.

[Read more](#)



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NEWSLETTER

Aug 15th,
2011



Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

The United Nations Millennium Development Goals are eight goals that all 191 UN member states have agreed to try to achieve by the year 2015. The United Nations Millennium Declaration, signed in September 2000 commits world leaders to combat poverty, hunger, disease, illiteracy, environmental degradation, and discrimination against women. The MDGs are derived from this Declaration, and all have specific targets and indicators.

[Find out more](#)



Elder maltreatment likely to increase with ageing populations

While there is little information regarding the extent of maltreatment in elderly populations, especially in developing countries, it is estimated that 4-6% of elderly people in high-income countries have experienced some form of maltreatment at home. However, older people are often afraid to report cases of maltreatment to family, friends, or to the authorities.

[Read more](#)

Polio kicked out of Europe

The WHO European Region retains its polio-free status. In 2010, four countries - Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan - reported 475 laboratory-confirmed cases of wild poliovirus type 1, with 30 deaths. This week, an independent expert assessment noted that wild poliovirus transmission has been interrupted and confirmed the sustainability of the polio-free status of the Region.

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Aug 30th,
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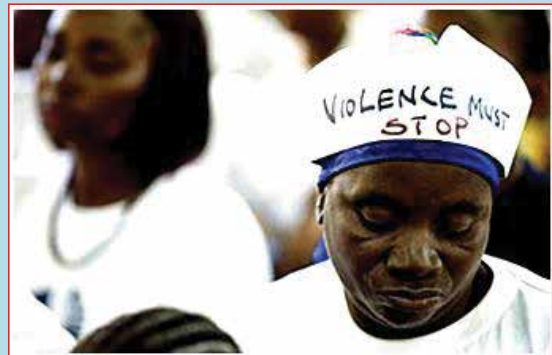
Fewer newborns are dying worldwide

Newborn deaths decreased from 4.6 million in 1990 to 3.3 million in 2009, shows a new study published in the medical journal PLoS Medicine today. Most of these newborns are dying of three causes - preterm delivery, asphyxia and infections - for which well-documented cost-effective interventions exist.

[Read more](#)

Stopping violence

Violence accounts for more than 1.5 million deaths every year. Furthermore, a significant number of women report experiencing physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lives. Violence results in health, social and economic costs to society. To improve this situation WHO is reviewing recent progress, including cutting-edge violence prevention programmes, within the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention.



[Read more](#)
[Find out more](#)

World Suicide Prevention Day
10 September 2011

World Suicide Prevention Day on 10 September promotes worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides.

[Find out more](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Sep 15th,
2011



Tobacco kills up to half of its users

Tobacco use is one of the most important risk factors contributing to noncommunicable diseases (NCDs). It kills nearly six million people yearly (5 million users and ex users and over 600 000 nonsmokers exposed to second-hand smoke). Curbing tobacco use features prominently at the **UN High-level meeting on NCDs** in New York, 19-20 September 2011.

[Find out more](#)
[Read more](#)



World Health
Organization

Guideline:

**Use of multiple
micronutrient powders for
home fortification of foods
consumed by infants and
children 6–23 months of age**

This guideline provides global, evidence-informed recommendations on the use of multiple micronutrient powders for home fortification of foods consumed by infants and young children 6–23 months of age.

The guideline will help Member States and their partners in their efforts to make informed decisions on the appropriate nutrition actions to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, in particular the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger (MDG 1) and reduction of child mortality (MDG 4). This document is intended for a wide audience including governments and scientists involved in the design and implementation of micronutrient programmes as public health interventions.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Sep 30th,
2011



Cardiovascular diseases are number one cause of death globally

An estimated 17.3 million people died from cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) like heart disease and stroke in 2008, representing 30% of all global deaths. World Heart Day provides an opportunity to take stock of the situation and lessen the impact of CVDs through healthy diet, regular physical activity and avoiding tobacco smoke.

[Find out more](#)



World Heart Federation



Breast cancer: the advantage of early detection

Breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer in women both in developed and developing countries. Throughout the month of October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, campaigns are organized around the world to encourage women to be screened. For WHO, early detection remains the primary means to fight breast cancer and improve survival.

[Read more](#)

WHO calls for improved city air quality to preserve health

Air pollution is reaching levels that can threaten people's health in many cities, according to a new compilation of data on air quality released today by WHO. The information includes data on the air quality from nearly 1100 cities in 91 countries, including national capitals and cities with more than 100 000 residents. It is estimated that more than two million people die each year from tiny particles present in indoor and outdoor air pollution.

[Read more](#)

[Find out more](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Oct 15th,
2011



Social conditions drive health inequities

An individual's health status is largely determined by his socioeconomic position. For example, in low-income countries, the average life expectancy is 57, while in high-income countries, it is 80. Representatives of over 100 countries will work at the World Conference on Social Determinants of Health to try and tackle the root causes of health inequities.

[Find out more](#)

[Read more](#)

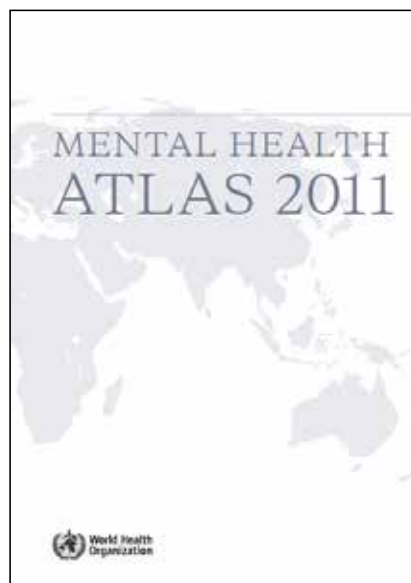


One in four people will require mental health care

New figures from the *WHO Mental Health Atlas 2011* indicate that while the need for mental health care is large, with up to 25% of the population requiring it at some point in their lives, there is underinvestment in the sector. The Atlas shows average global spending on mental health is still less than US\$ 3 per capita per year and as little as US\$ 0.25 per person per year in low-income countries.

The WHO Mental Health Atlas 2011 represents the latest estimate of global mental health resources available to prevent and treat mental disorders and help protect the human rights of people living with these conditions

[Click here to download the publication](#)



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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

Oct 30th,
2011



WHO's Executive Board supports reform proposals

WHO's Executive Board ended a three-day special session expressing strong support for WHO's work and reaching agreement on broad proposals for reform. "These are ambitious reforms, designed to build on the Organization's already strong foundations and better equip it to respond to public health challenges in the 21st century," said Rahhal El Makkaoui, Chair of the WHO Executive Board.

[Find out more](#)



Medical waste poses an important threat to health

Some 20% of all medical waste is considered hazardous material that may be infectious, toxic or radioactive. This updated fact sheet shows health-care waste contains potentially harmful microorganisms which can infect hospital patients, health-care workers and the general public.

[Read more](#)

Diet and physical activity: a public health priority

Unhealthy diets and physical inactivity are key risk factors for the major noncommunicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and diabetes.

[Read more](#)



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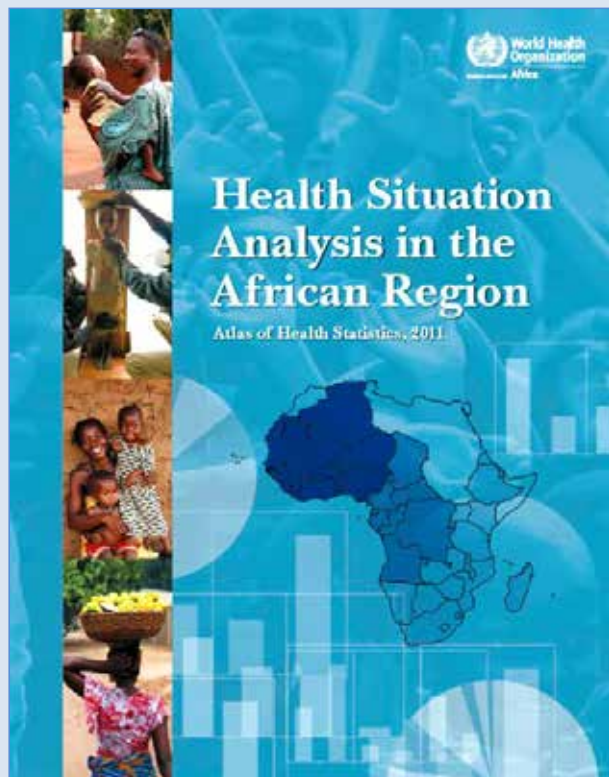
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NEWSLETTER

Nov 15th,
2011



Health Situation Analysis in the African Region

Atlas of Health Statistics, 2011

This publication presents in numerical and graphical formats the best data available for key health indicators in the 46 countries of WHO's African Region. Although there have been considerable improvements in data collection and analysis and notable examples of success, this is not the case with all the data collected in the Region. Countries have worked long and hard, and with varying degrees of success, on strengthening their national health information systems. Nevertheless, there continue to be gaps in the system.

[Download the publication](#)

Healthy lifestyles prevent diabetes

More than 346 million people worldwide have diabetes, and more than 80% of diabetes deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries. On World Diabetes Day, it is important to note that healthy diet, regular physical activity, maintaining a normal body weight and avoiding tobacco use can prevent or delay the onset of the most common type of diabetes.



[Read more](#)

[Find out more](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Nov 30th,
2011



The world health report - Health systems financing: the path to universal coverage

Good health is essential to human welfare and to sustained economic and social development. WHO's Member States have set themselves the target of developing their health financing systems to ensure that all people can use health services, while being protected against financial hardship associated with paying for them.

In this report, the World Health Organization maps out what countries can do to modify their financing systems so they can move more quickly towards this goal - universal coverage - and sustain the gains that have been achieved. The report builds on new research and lessons learnt from country experience. It provides an action agenda for countries at all stages of development and proposes ways that the international community can better support efforts in low income countries to achieve universal coverage and improve health outcomes.



[Click here to download the publication](#)

Malaria deaths are down but progress remains fragile



Malaria mortality rates have fallen by more than 25% globally since 2000 according to the World malaria report 2011. This is the result of a significant scaling-up of malaria prevention and control measures in the last decade, including the widespread use of bed nets, better diagnostics and a wider availability of effective medicines to treat malaria.

[Find out more](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Dec 15th,
2011

Treating TB in rural Lesotho

Lesotho has one of the highest rates of new tuberculosis (TB) cases in the world. The lack of health-care facilities in remote areas makes it hard for people with TB to get tested and treated, so the disease spreads quickly through communities. This photo story illustrates the difficulties and ways to overcome them and bring medicine to rural Lesotho.



[Find out more](#)
[Read more](#)

Brazil to Become World's Largest Smoke-free Country

The Government of Brazil enacted a new law that protects the health of its more than 190 million inhabitants by prohibiting smoking in all enclosed collective-use spaces—both public and private. Signed by President Dilma Rousseff, the new law makes Brazil the largest country in the world to declare all workplaces and indoor public spaces 100 percent smoke-free.

[Read more](#)

EVENTS



Press Conference, January 11 2012, One Team against Cholera -
Call to Action for Accelerating the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti
and the Dominican Republic (Island of Hispaniola)

Call to Action for Accelerating the Elimination of
Cholera in Haiti and the Dominican Republic (Island of
Hispaniola).

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NEWSLETTER

Dec 30th,
2011



2011 in review: key health issues

In 2011, there was important progress in a number of areas; AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria all indicated fewer deaths and fewer new infections. However, natural disasters and conflict took their toll, such as the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant damage in Japan. Furthermore, the first *State of the world's midwifery report* revealed the need to train and deploy more midwives in order to meet global targets on improving maternal and newborn health. This photo feature presents a selection of some of the major health issues in 2011.

[Read more](#)



THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S MIDWIFERY 2011

Midwifery Workforce Management and Innovation

June 2011

Ellen Rooskam, George Pariyo,
Sennen Hounton and Hirotsugu Aiga

Prepared as a background document for The State of the World's Midwifery 2011 - launched June 2011
The authors of all other content remain with the Organization of the authors. Responsibility for the content and interpretation rests with the authors.
The views expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the State of the World's Midwifery 2011 Editorial Committee.

Midwifery Workforce Management and Innovation

Background document for The State of the World's Midwifery 2011

This paper focuses on three overarching aspects essential to midwifery workforce management: managing entry to the workforce, managing stay in the workforce, and managing exit from the workforce. Various factors influence midwifery recruitment (i.e. entry to the workforce), retention (i.e. staying in the workforce), and motivation to prevent exit from the midwifery workforce.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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GLOBAL NETWORK



Newsletters

2012



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development

NEWSLETTER

Jan 15th,
2012



Dr Chan nominated as WHO Director-General for a second term

Dr Margaret Chan was nominated by the WHO's Executive Board for a second term as Director-General of the Organization. The nomination will be submitted for approval to the Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly, scheduled to meet in Geneva from 21–26 May 2012. If confirmed by the World Health Assembly, Dr Chan's new term will begin on 1 July 2012 and continue until 30 June 2017.



[Read more](#)

India records one year without polio cases

India was once recognized as the world's epicentre of polio. But it has now been a year since India recorded its last case in a 2-year-old girl. India's success provides a global opportunity to push for the end of polio. It is also proof that polio can be eradicated in even the most challenging environments.

[Read more](#)
[Find out more](#)



Sleeping sickness on the decline

[Read more](#)

African trypanosomiasis also known as sleeping sickness has shown a significant decline. With less than 7 200 cases reported a year this updated fact sheet shows that 19 countries that used to have the disease have not reported any cases in over a decade.

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NEWSLETTER

Jan 30th,
2012



The evolving threat of antimicrobial resistance - Options for action

Antibiotic resistance development is a natural process of adaption leading to a limited lifespan of antibiotics. Unnecessary and inappropriate use of antibiotics favours the emergence and spread of resistant bacteria. A crisis has been building up over decades, so that today common and life-threatening infections are becoming difficult or even impossible to treat. It is time to take much stronger action worldwide to avert an ever increasing health and economic burden. A new WHO publication "The evolving threat of antimicrobial resistance - Options for action" describes examples of policy activities that have addressed AMR in different parts of the world. The aim is to raise awareness and to stimulate further coordinated efforts.

[Click here to download the publication](#)



The evolving threat of antimicrobial resistance Options for action



European Action Plan for HIV/AIDS 2012–2015

The eastern part of the WHO European Region has the fastest growing HIV epidemic in the world, with the number of people living with HIV estimated to have tripled since 2000. Progress in the western part of the Region shows what can be achieved, though much more is still needed. The overall objective of the European Action Plan for HIV/AIDS 2012–2015 is clear: to ensure zero new HIV infections, zero discrimination and zero AIDS-related deaths in the Region.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Feb 15th,
2012



Maternal, child and adolescent mental health



Challenges and strategic directions for the
Eastern Mediterranean Region

Maternal, child and adolescent mental health: challenges and strategic directions for the Eastern Mediterranean Region

Maternal, child and adolescent mental disorders constitute a public health problem. The estimated prevalence of 15%-36% for maternal mental disorders and 10%-36% for child and adolescent mental disorders in the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region is significantly higher than the estimates for developed countries. Mental disorders among mothers, children and adolescents are inextricably linked, at the causal as well as at the intervention level, making it imperative to address the issue in an integrated manner. Maternal, child and adolescent mental health: challenges and strategic directions for the Eastern Mediterranean Region provides an overview of the situation globally and regionally, identifies the major challenges and suggests strategic directions and actions to promote maternal, child and adolescent mental health in the Region. The strategic directions outlined were endorsed by the WHO Regional Committee for the Eastern Mediterranean in 2010. The publication is aimed at policy-makers, health system managers, mental health professionals and others interested in mental health in general, and maternal, child and adolescent mental health issues in particular. It will help countries in developing national strategies and action plans based on evidence and in charting progress in provision of integrated mental health services for maternal, child and adolescents. In turn, this will help in achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

[Click here to download the publication](#)



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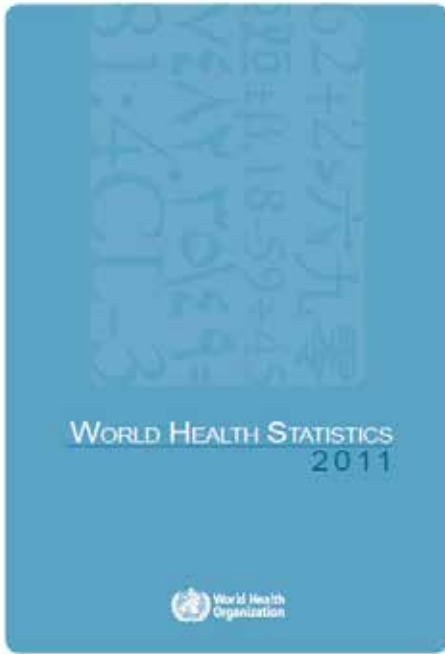
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NEWSLETTER

Feb 28th,
2012



World Health Statistics 2011

The World Health Statistics series is WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 193 Member States, and includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets.

As with previous versions, *World Health Statistics 2011* has been compiled using publications and databases produced and maintained by the technical programmes and regional offices of WHO.

Indicators have been included on the basis of their relevance to global public health; the availability and quality of the data; and the reliability and comparability of the resulting estimates.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

10 facts on nutrition

Nutrition is a critical part of health and development. Better nutrition is related to improved infant, child and maternal health, stronger immune systems, safer pregnancy and childbirth, lower risk of non-communicable diseases (such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease), and longevity.

Healthy children learn better. People with adequate nutrition are more productive and can create opportunities to gradually break the cycles of poverty and hunger.

[Find out more](#)



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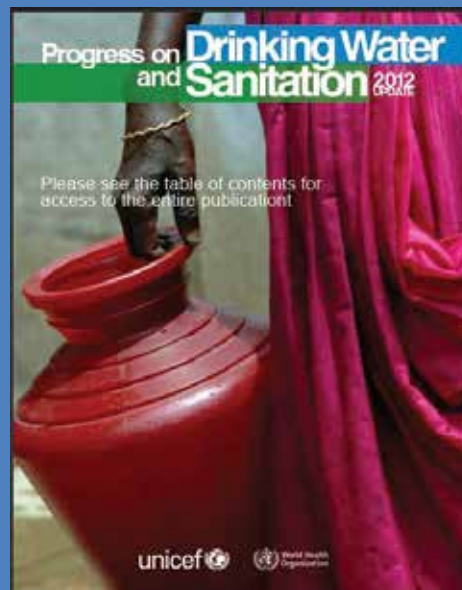
NEWSLETTER

Mar 15th,
2012



Progress on drinking water and sanitation

The WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation (JMP) reports every two years on progress towards the drinking-water and sanitation target under Millennium Development Goal 7. This target calls for halving the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation between 1990 and 2015. Estimates presented in its 2012 update report describe the situation at the end 2010 and supersede those of the JMP update published in March 2010.



The report brings welcome news: measured by the proxy-indicator consistently used by the JMP since 2000, the MDG drinking-water target was met in 2010, five years ahead of schedule. However, the job is far from done. An estimated 780 million still lacked safe drinking water in 2010, and the world is unlikely to meet the MDG sanitation target. A reduction in urban-rural disparities and inequities associated with poverty; drinking-water coverage in countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania; putting sanitation 'on track'; and universal coverage beyond 2015 all remain high on the development and public health agenda.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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NEWSLETTER

Mar 30th,
2012



Dementia: a public health priority

Authors: World Health Organization and Alzheimer's Disease International

The report "Dementia: a public health priority" has been jointly developed by WHO and Alzheimer's Disease International. The purpose of this report is to raise awareness of dementia as a public health priority, to articulate a public health approach and to advocate for action at international and national levels.



Dementia is a syndrome that affects memory, thinking, behaviour and ability to perform everyday activities. The number of people living with dementia worldwide is currently estimated at 35.6 million. This number will double by 2030 and more than triple by 2050. Dementia is overwhelming not only for the people who have it, but also for their caregivers and families. There is lack of awareness and understanding of dementia in most countries, resulting in stigmatization, barriers to diagnosis and care, and impacting caregivers, families and societies physically, psychologically and economically.

The report is expected to facilitate governments, policy-makers, and other stakeholders to address the impact of dementia as an increasing threat to global health. It is hoped that the report will promote dementia as a public health and social care priority worldwide.

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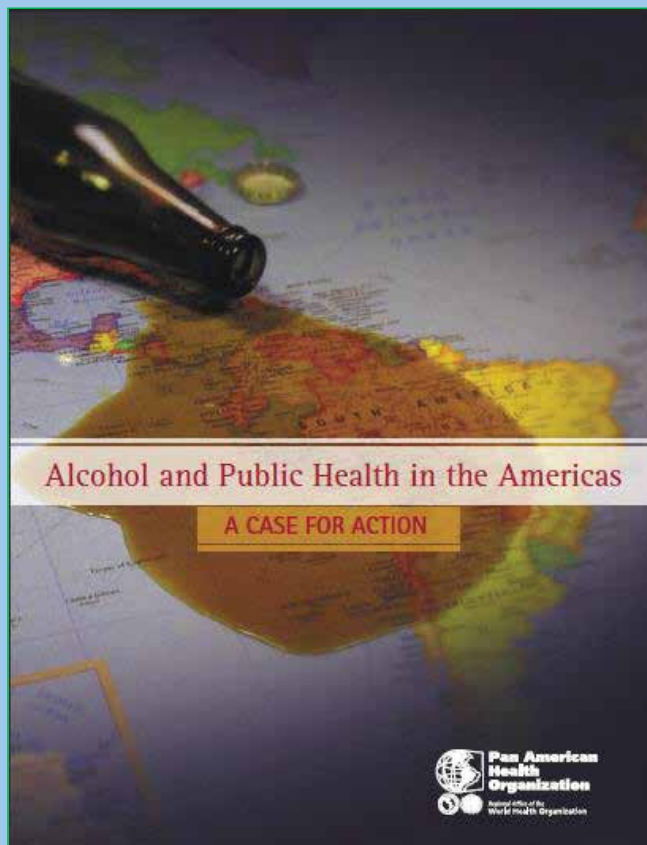
Alcohol and public health in the Americas: a case for action

There are five compelling reasons to make alcohol an urgent public health priority in the Americas.

These are:

The Americas surpass global average statistics for:

1. alcohol related deaths,
2. alcohol consumption,
3. alcohol drinking patterns,
4. alcohol use disorders and
5. alcohol is the leading risk factor for the burden of disease in the region.



The purpose of this document is to explain the need for making alcohol a top public health priority in the region and the need for national and regional action. Current evidence-based research shows that alcohol consumption and drinking patterns in the Americas are at damaging levels, with the region surpassing global averages for many alcohol related problems. Extensive research has demonstrated the effectiveness of numerous public health policies which have been evaluated in different countries and cultures.

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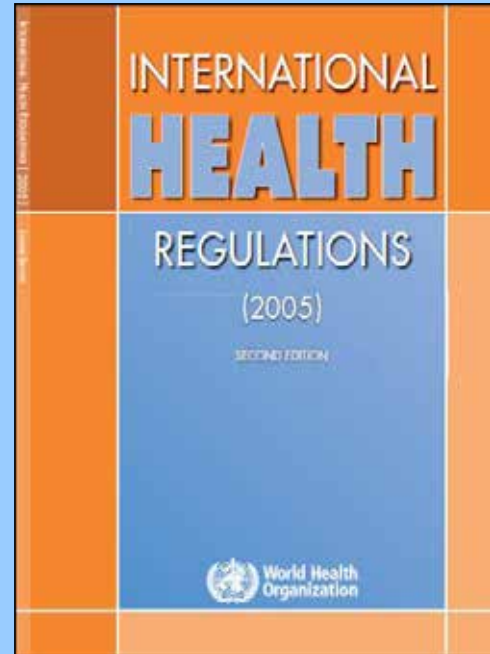
NEWSLETTER

Apr 30th,
2012



In response to the exponential increase in international travel and trade, and emergence and reemergence of international disease threats and other health risks, 194 countries across the globe have agreed to implement the **International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR)**. This binding instrument of international law entered into force on 15 June 2007.

The stated purpose and scope of the IHR are "to prevent, protect against, control and provide a public health response to the international spread of disease in ways that are commensurate with and restricted to public health risks, and which avoid unnecessary interference with international traffic and trade." Because the IHR are not limited to specific diseases, but are applicable to health risks, irrespective of their origin or source, they will follow the evolution of diseases and the factors affecting their emergence and transmission.



The IHR also require States to strengthen core surveillance and response capacities at the primary, intermediate and national level, as well as at designated international ports, airports and ground crossings. They further introduce a series of health documents, including ship sanitation certificates and an international certificate of vaccination or prophylaxis for travelers.

Finally, this second edition includes a new foreword and the Health Part of the Aircraft General Declaration (as revised by the International Civil Aviation Organization), as well as Appendices listing States Parties to the IHR and reservations, objections and declarations received from States Parties.

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NEWSLETTER

May 15th,
2012



Born too soon: the global action report on preterm birth

This publication provides the first-ever national, regional and global estimates of preterm birth. The report shows the extent to which preterm birth is on the rise in most countries, and is now the second leading cause of death globally for children under five, after pneumonia.

Addressing preterm birth is now an urgent priority for reaching Millennium Development Goal 4, calling for the reduction of child deaths by two-thirds by 2015. This report shows that rapid change is possible and identifies priority actions for everyone.



This inspiring report is a joint effort of almost 50 international, regional and national organizations, led by the March of Dimes, The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn & Child Health, Save the Children and the World Health Organization in support of the Every Woman Every Child effort, led by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Born too soon proposes actions for policy, programs and research by all partners – from governments to NGOs to the business community -- that if acted upon, will substantially reduce the toll of preterm birth, especially in high-burden countries.

The report contains a foreword by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and is accompanied by more than 30 new and expanded commitments to prevention and care of preterm birth, joining more than 200 existing commitments on the Every Woman Every Child web site.

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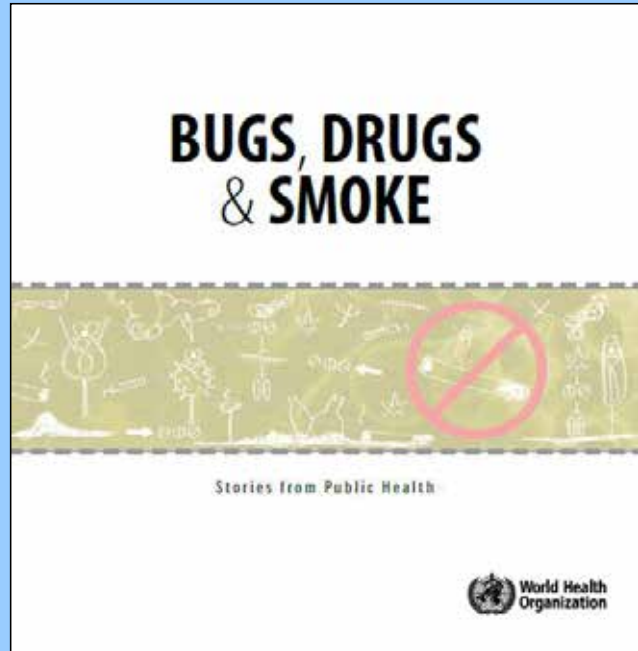
NEWSLETTER

May 30th,
2012



Bugs, drugs and smoke: stories from public health

Since the World Health Organization was founded in 1948, the world has changed dramatically and so too has its health. But while some scourges (e.g. smallpox and polio) have subsided, others have made a comeback (e.g. tuberculosis) and frightening new diseases (e.g. Ebola and Marburg) have appeared.



This book is primarily for young people, especially those interested in working in public health. It explains in simple, non-technical language how humankind developed techniques to protect the health of communities, drawing on first-hand interviews with leading public health figures. It covers a wide range of topics, from the control of infectious disease outbreaks to fighting the stigma attached to mental health conditions.

These narratives, told from many parts of the world, show how individuals, communities, institutions and countries can improve people's health when they work together. They show the role that WHO has played in providing countries with the technical support and coordination to make progress in health possible.

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Newsletter

Jun 15th, 2012

Number 53

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Health planning for large public events	2
Countdown to 2015 launches the 2012 Report	3
The tobacco industry's unhealthy influence	3

Launch of QualityRights Tool Kit

The WHO has released the *QualityRights Tool Kit*, which supports countries in their assessment and improvement of the quality and human rights of their mental health and social care facilities. The Tool Kit is an essential resource, not only for putting an end to past neglect and abuses but also for ensuring high quality services in the future.

[Click here to download the publication](#)



Nepal Mental Health Foundation/Jagannath Lamichhane

[Find out more](#)

[Read more](#)



Assessing and improving quality and human rights in mental health and social care facilities



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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Newsletter

Jun 30th, 2012

Number 54

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Combating HIV through integrated care for drug users in Ukraine

Globally, with 16 million people injecting drugs and 3 million of them living with HIV, one programme in Ukraine is making remarkable progress. By providing treatment to patients who are HIV positive and inject drugs, HIV treatment outcomes have improved and illicit drug use has reduced.



DRUG INJECTION

[Find out more](#)

[Read more](#)

Globally, around 16 million people inject drugs and 3 million of them are living with HIV. On average, one out of every ten new HIV infections is caused by injecting drug use and in some countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia over 80 per cent of all HIV infections is related to drug use.

WHO strongly supports harm reduction as an evidence-based approach to HIV prevention, treatment and care for people who inject drug and defined a comprehensive package.



Newsletter

Jul 15th, 2012

Number 55

EERP continues to lead the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Development

In an unprecedented decision, the extension of the mandate of Professor Isabel Amélia Costa Mendes, University of São Paulo at Ribeirão Preto, College of Nursing, as Secretary-General of the Global Network of WHO was approved until 2014. The vote took place during international meetings, between June 26th and July 1st, which occurred in Kobe, Japan, with nursing leaders from all over the world.

From 26th to 29th June, there were meetings of the Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres for Nursing and Midwifery Development led by professors Isabel and Carla Aparecida Arena Ventura, College of Nursing, who account for the Global Network Secretariat and chaired the Executive Committee meetings and the Network General Assembly.





Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
for Nursing and Midwifery Development



Newsletter

Jul 30th, 2012

Number 56

Global atlas on cardiovascular disease prevention and control Policies, strategies and interventions

As the magnitude of cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) continues to accelerate globally, the pressing need for increased awareness and for stronger and more focused international and country responses is increasingly recognized. This atlas on cardiovascular disease prevention and control is part of the response to this need.

Global Atlas on cardiovascular disease prevention and control



Published by the World Health Organization
in collaboration with the World Heart Federation
and the World Stroke Organization.



It documents the magnitude of the problem, using global cardiovascular mortality and morbidity data. It demonstrates the inequities in access to protection, exposure to risk, and access to care as the cause of major inequalities between countries and populations in the occurrence and outcome of CVDs. The report has graphs showing mortality rates of CVDs by age, by country/region, and is divided into three main sections:

[Click here to download the publication](#)

- Section A: Cardiovascular diseases due to atherosclerosis
- Section B: Other cardiovascular diseases
- Section C: Prevention and control of CVDs: Policies, strategies and interventions.

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Newsletter

August 15th, 2012

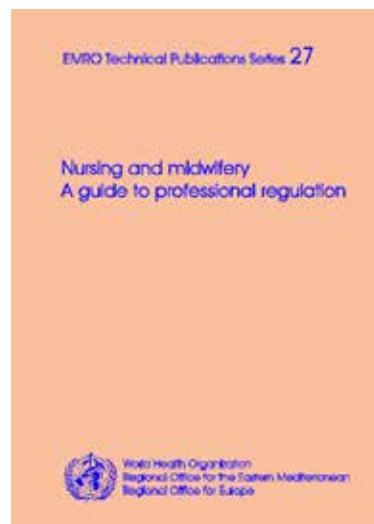
Number 57

Nursing and midwifery: a guide to professional regulation

Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean

Regional Office for Europe

Protecting the health of the public depends as much on human resources as it does on systems that are institutionalized to regulate the practice of health care providers, including nurses and midwives. A quick review of the nursing situation in Member States in both Eastern Mediterranean and European regions reveals that regulatory systems leave a lot to be desired. New demands for institutionalizing a comprehensive regulatory system for nursing and midwifery have been created by the health sector reform initiative and the expanding role of the private sector in health care in many countries of our regions.



This is the first joint publication between the WHO Regional Offices for the Eastern Mediterranean (EMRO) and for Europe (EURO) in the field of nursing and it represents a serious effort to strengthen nursing regulation in our regions and to develop a system to ensure the regulation of nursing practice and education. The regulatory system that would be developed would reflect the current scope of practice and would contribute to the fulfilment of the vision for nursing and midwifery entailed in the Regional Strategy for Nursing and Midwifery Development in the Eastern Mediterranean Region and in the Munich Declaration – Nurses and midwives: a force for health. Both of these regional documents call for enhancing the roles of nurses and midwives in the provision of high quality, accessible, equitable, efficient, and sensitive health services, which would ensure continuity of care and address people's rights and changing needs.

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for Nursing and Midwifery Development



Newsletter

August 30th, 2012

Number 58

Age-friendly Primary Health Care (PHC) Centres Toolkit

The Department of Ageing and Life Course (ALC) has developed a toolkit that assists health care workers in being well versed in the diagnosis and management of the chronic diseases and the so-called four giants of geriatrics (memory loss, urinary incontinence, depression and falls/immobility) that often impact people as they age.



- The toolkit's purpose is to:

- improve the primary health care response for older persons.
- sensitize and educate primary health care workers about the specific needs of their older clients.
- provide primary care health workers with a set of tools/instruments to assess older people's health.
- raise awareness among primary care health workers of the accumulation of minor/major disabilities experienced by older people.
- provide guidance on how to make primary health care management procedures more responsive to the needs of older people's needs.
- offer direction on how to do environmental audits to test primary health care centres for their age-friendliness.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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Newsletter

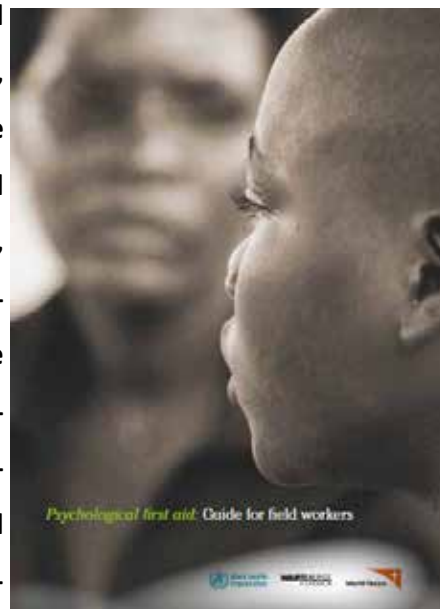
September 15th, 2012

Number 59

Psychological first aid: Guide for field workers

When terrible things happen in communities, countries and the world, we want to reach out a helping hand to those who are affected. This guide covers psychological first aid which involves humane, supportive and practical help to fellow human beings suffering serious crisis events. It is written for people in a position to help others who have experienced an extremely distressing event. It gives a framework for supporting people in ways that respect their dignity, culture and abilities. Despite its name, psychological first aid covers both social and psychological support.

Psychological first aid has been recommended by many international and national expert groups, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and the Sphere Project. Psychological first aid is an alternative to psychological debriefing. In 2009, the World Health Organization's (WHO) mhGAP Guidelines Development Group evaluated the evidence for psychological first aid and psychological debriefing. They concluded that psychological first aid, rather than psychological debriefing, should be offered to people in severe distress after being recently exposed to a traumatic event.



[Click here to download the publication](#)

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Newsletter

September 30th, 2012

Number 60

Plan of Action for the Global Campaign for Violence

This Plan of Action for the Global Campaign for Violence Prevention aims to unify the efforts of the main actors in international violence prevention and identify a small set of priorities for the field, by presenting six national level goals towards which efforts can be directed. The first two goals aim to prioritize violence prevention within the global public health agenda; the next three aim to build strong foundations for on-going violence prevention efforts; and the last aims to promote the implementation of evidence-informed violence prevention strategies on parenting, life-skills, social norms, alcohol, the risks of firearm-related deaths and injuries, and services for victims. The objective of the Campaign in the coming years will be to support the achievement of these goals in countries around the world.



[Find out more](#)

POPULATION AGEING is one of the key issues facing policy-makers, communities and town planners today. By mid-century, two billion men and women will be over 60 years old, with 400 million being over the age of 80 years. On the International Day of Older Persons, WHO welcomes Kolkata, India as the 105th member of its Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Communities. Kolkata is the first city to join from WHO's South-East Asia Region.

[Read more](#)

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October 15th, 2012

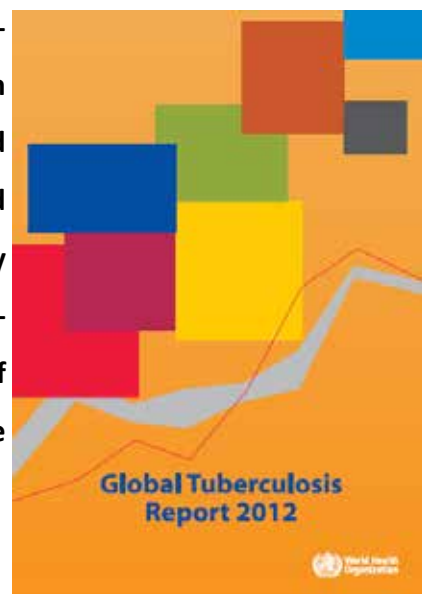
Number 61

Global tuberculosis report 2012

The World Health Organization (WHO) declared TB a global public health emergency in 1993. Tuberculosis (TB) remains a major global health problem. It causes ill-health among millions of people each year and ranks as the second leading cause of death from an infectious disease worldwide, after the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The latest estimates included in this report are that there were almost 9 million new cases in 2011 and 1.4 million TB deaths (990 000 among HIV negative people and 430 000 HIV-associated TB deaths). This is despite the availability of treatment that will cure most cases of TB. Short-course regimens of first-line drugs that can cure around 90% of cases have been available since the 1980s.

The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Tuberculosis Report 2012 provides the latest information and analysis about the tuberculosis (TB) epidemic and progress in TB care and control at global, regional and country levels. It is based primarily on data reported by WHO's Member States in annual rounds of global TB data collection. In 2012, 182 Member States and a total of 204 countries and territories that collectively have more than 99% of the world's TB cases reported data.

[Click here to download the publication](#)



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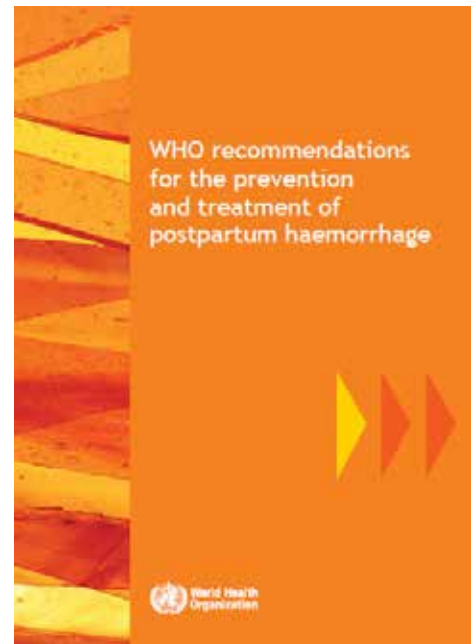
Newsletter

October 30th, 2012

Number 62

WHO recommendations for the prevention and treatment of postpartum haemorrhage

Postpartum haemorrhage (PPH) is a major cause of mortality, morbidity and long term disability related to pregnancy and childbirth. Effective interventions to prevent and treat PPH exist and can largely reduce the burden of this life-threatening condition. Given the availability of new scientific evidence related to the prevention and treatment of PPH, this document updates previous WHO recommendations and adds new recommendations for the prevention and treatment of PPH.



The primary goal of this guideline is to provide a foundation for the implementation of interventions shown to have been effective in reducing the burden of PPH. Health professionals responsible for developing national and local health policies constitute the main target audience of this document. Obstetricians, midwives, general medical practitioners, health care managers and public health policy-makers, particularly in under-resourced settings are also targeted. This document establishes general principles of PPH care and it is intended to inform the development of clinical protocols and health policies related to PPH.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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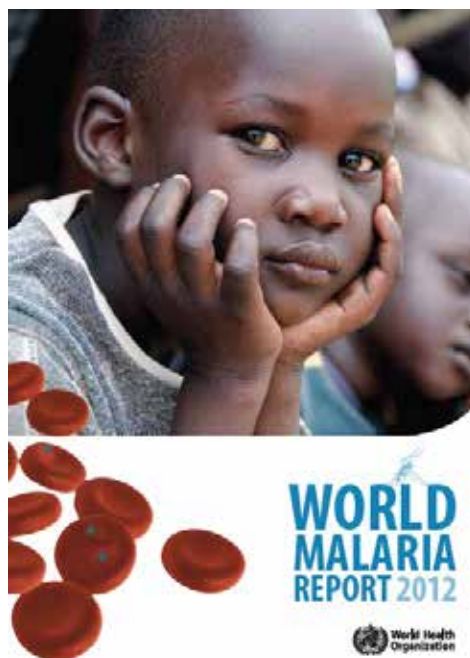
Newsletter

November 15th, 2012

Number 63

World Malaria Report 2012

The World Malaria Report 2012 summarizes information received from 104 malaria-endemic countries and other sources, and updates the analyses presented in the 2011 report. It highlights the progress made towards the global malaria targets set for 2015 and describes current challenges for global malaria control and elimination. The past decade has witnessed tremendous expansion in the financing and implementation of malaria control programmes.



International disbursements for malaria control rose steeply from less than US\$ 100 million in 2000 to US\$ 1.71 billion in 2010 and were estimated to be US\$ 1.66 billion in 2011 and US\$ 1.84 billion in 2012. Analysis indicates that as funding has risen, international disbursements have been increasingly targeted to the African Region, to countries with the lowest gross national income (GNI) per capita, and to countries with the highest malaria mortality rates. Domestic government funding for malaria control programmes also increased through 2005–2011 and was estimated at US\$ 625 million in 2011.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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Newsletter

November 30th, 2012

Number 64

Mortality and Global Burden of Disease (GBD)

Measuring how many people die each year and why they have died is one of the most important means – along with gauging how various diseases and injuries are affecting the living – of assessing the effectiveness of a country's health system. Having those numbers helps health authorities determine whether they are focussing on the right kinds of public health actions that will reduce the number of preventable deaths and disease. Globally, around 57 million people die each year. Almost 15% of these deaths occur in children under the age of 5. Most of these preventable deaths in children occur in low- and middle-income countries.

[Find out more](#)

Global Health Observatory (GHO)

Reducing child mortality to achieve MDG 4: 6.9 million children under five years of age died in 2011 – nearly 19 000 children each day and almost 800 every hour. Progress has been made in recent decades, but is unequally distributed across regions and countries and within countries. Important challenges remain for the global goal to be achieved. About 80 percent of the world's under-five deaths in 2011 occurred in only 25 countries, and about half in only five countries: India, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Pakistan and China. India (24 percent) and Nigeria (11 percent) together account for more than a third of under-five deaths worldwide.

[Find out more](#)

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Newsletter

December 15th, 2012

Number 65

2012 in review: key health issues

Key public health milestones were reached in 2012, including the end of polio transmission in India and meeting the Millennium Development Goal target on drinking water ahead of schedule. Governments made important decisions on combatting illicit trade in tobacco products, monitoring noncommunicable diseases, and conducting research on H5N1 influenza.

WHO supported response to a number of disease outbreaks, including Ebola in Uganda. The Organization encouraged countries to invest in testing, treating and tracking all cases of malaria, and to improve access to contraceptives. It issued guidance on the use of antiretroviral drugs to both prevent HIV transmission and keep people healthy.

WHO published new statistics highlighting the growing problem of high blood pressure and diabetes, that 15 million babies are born preterm every year, but that overall progress on child survival is speeding up. Other recommendations showed how to use weather information to protect public health, and how to ensure people with mental health conditions receive good care. World Health Day outlined ways to ensure healthy ageing, and the World Health Assembly adopted decisions on issues including nutrition, adolescent pregnancy, and the reform of WHO.

[Find out more](#)

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Newsletter

December 30th, 2012

Number 66

World Health Statistics 2012

World Health Statistics 2012 contains WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 194 Member States, and includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets. This year, it also includes highlight summaries on the topics of noncommunicable diseases, universal health coverage and civil registration coverage.



The series is produced by the WHO Department of Health Statistics and Information Systems of the Innovation, Information, Evidence and Research Cluster. As in previous years, World Health Statistics 2012 has been compiled using publications and databases produced and maintained by WHO technical programmes and regional offices. A number of demographic and socioeconomic statistics have also been derived from databases maintained by a range of other organizations.

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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GLOBAL NETWORK



Newsletters

2013



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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Newsletter

January 15th, 2013

Number 67

Global Health Observatory – the one-stop shop for health data

Improvements are under way at WHO's online Global Health Observatory (GHO) making health data easier to find and use for specialists such as statisticians, epidemiologists, economists and public health researchers as well as anyone with an interest in global health.



The GHO is the “one-stop shop” for the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of up-to-date health data. It provides free public access through a single internet page to a vast reservoir of data and analyses on the situation and trends for global health priorities, integrating around 1000 health indicators.

WHO's health information comes from many sources including government birth and death registration, health systems, surveys and censuses, research projects and databases maintained by other organizations. Countries are closely involved in discussions to improve data collection and develop the best methods of estimation where there are gaps in the data.

[Find out more](#)

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Newsletter

January 30th, 2013

Number 68

Health and Human Rights

WHO Constitution: "the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health is one of the fundamental rights of every human being..."

"The world needs a global health guardian, a custodian of values, a protector and defender of health, including the right to health." Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO.



The role of the Health and Human Rights Team is to:

- ⇒ **Strengthen the capacity of WHO and its Member States to integrate a human rights-based approach to health.**
- ⇒ **Advance the right to health in international law and international development processes.**
- ⇒ **Advocate for health-related human rights.**

[Find out more](#)

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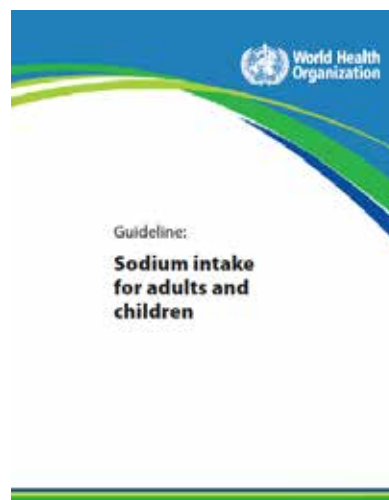
Newsletter

February 15th, 2013

Number 69

Sodium intake for adults and children

This guideline provides updated global, evidence-informed recommendations on the consumption of sodium to reduce NCDs in most adults and children. The reduction of sodium intake in the population is a cost-effective public health intervention for preventing NCDs and is one of the nine global targets selected by Member States for the prevention and control of NCDs.



The recommendations in this guideline can be used by policy-makers, technical and programme planners in the government and various organizations involved in the design, implementation and scaling-up of nutrition actions for public health and prevention of NCDs, to assess current sodium intake levels relative to a benchmark and develop measures to decrease sodium intake, where necessary, through public health interventions including, reducing content in manufactured food, food and product labelling, consumer education, and the establishment of food-based dietary guidelines (FBDG).

[Click here to download the publication](#)

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Newsletter

February 28th, 2013

Number 70

Cuba – Battling cancer with biotechnology

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Cuba, after cardiovascular diseases. It is estimated that every year about 21 000 people die of cancer on the island and more than 31 000 cancer cases are newly diagnosed.



Anti-cancer drugs and vaccines in development at the Centre of Molecular Immunology (CIM), Havana, Cuba.

“Cancer is one of the major killers in Cuba. This is partly because people live longer but also because many have adopted unhealthy lifestyles. Too many people use alcohol harmfully, eat unhealthily and use tobacco,” says Dr José Luis Di Fabio, the head of the WHO Country Office in Cuba. “Among men, prostate and lung cancers are the most common types of cancer, and among women breast and cervical cancer are at the top of the list.”

[Read more](#)

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Newsletter

March 15th, 2013

Number 71

Viet Nam: optimism for multidrug-resistant TB patients

“The pain in my upper back came first, then it became hard to breathe and my chest hurt,” says Thanh, a 24-year-old wife and mother, as she describes her early symptoms of tuberculosis. She was diagnosed last year at the community health post near her farm in northern Viet Nam, and started taking medicines right away. But after eight months of taking anti-TB drugs, her health did not improve. The medicines were not working and she began to lose hope of being cured.



WHO/E. Eraly

Then her doctor sent her to Hanoi Lung Hospital, 35km away, where a newly refurbished unit handles suspect cases of multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB). Two months later, Thanh is responding well to treatment and she is optimistic about returning home to finish the 18-24 month course of treatment with her husband as caregiver.

[Find out more](#)

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Newsletter

March 30th, 2013

Number 72

Behind the Essential Medicines List

WHO's Model Essential Medicines List provides an internationally recognizable set of selected medicines to help countries choose how to treat their priority health needs.



WHO

Scaling up the use of zinc sulfate could dramatically reduce the number of the 760 000 children under 5 who die from diarrhoea worldwide, every year. Used with oral rehydration salts, zinc can reduce the severity of childhood diarrhoea episodes, and reduce mortality. This is why the World Health Organization added a 20mg zinc tablet to its 2011 Model Essential Medicines List (EML).

[Read more](#)

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Newsletter

April 15th, 2013

Number 73

Prequalification to make high-quality, safe and affordable vaccines

WHO's vaccine prequalification programme ensures that the vaccines received by two thirds of the world's babies are high-quality, safe and affordable.



Ministry of Public Health, Thailand

Every year, more than 2.5 billion doses of vaccines are used globally to immunize children under 10 years old. Immunization is key to protecting children from many deadly diseases, including polio, measles, diphtheria, and tetanus. But it only works if vaccine quality and safety can be assured and consistent, and it can only be carried out if vaccines are affordable. So in 1987, WHO introduced a vaccine prequalification programme, initially as a service to UNICEF and other UN purchasing agencies. Today, that programme is the only one in the world to facilitate international harmonization of vaccine production standards.

[Read more](#)

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Newsletter

April 30th, 2013

Number 74

Strengthening routine immunization in Sudan

Sudan has reached more than 90% of children with routine immunization thanks to a committed government plan and partner support.



WHO & Ministry of Health Sudan

In a country plagued by internal conflict and where one in ten people belong to a nomadic tribe, ensuring all children receive life-saving vaccines can be a challenge. Ten years ago, around one third of Sudan's children missed out on vaccinations against diseases such as polio, measles and tetanus, putting them at serious risk of death and disability. In one state, South Kordofan, more than half of the children were not reached by vaccination services. Now, thanks to a committed plan by the Ministry of Health, supported by WHO, UNICEF, GAVI and other partners, more than 90% of Sudan's children are vaccinated against diseases including polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (better known as whooping cough), and tuberculosis.

[Read more](#)

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Newsletter

May 15th, 2013

Number 75

Midwives at heart of Somalia's new reproductive health strategy

A reproductive health programme in Somalia is breaking new ground in rapidly expanding access to birth spacing services, safe childbirth, antenatal and postnatal care.



PSI Somalia

By 2010, two decades of internal conflict and famine and a collapsed health sector had left 80% of Somalia's population without access to basic health services. The prospect of giving birth in the presence of a trained midwife or of accessing family planning – or “birth spacing” – services was thus a distant dream for the vast majority of Somali women, and one in 14 pregnancies ended with the mother dying. Spacing births more widely can dramatically reduce maternal mortality and improve the chances that children will survive. Dr Nima Hassan, a surgeon in Banadir Hospital in Mogadishu describes an all-too frequent Somali tragedy: “One patient died last year when she was in labour with her twelfth child. I warned her she would have problems and she shouldn't get pregnant again, but her husband put pressure on her to get pregnant and her body couldn't cope.”

[Find out more](#)

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Newsletter

May 30th, 2013

Number 76

HPV vaccine in Argentina: a leap forward for girls' and women's health

In Argentina, the WHO-recommended human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is given to all girls at 11 years of age to prevent cervical cancer later in life. WHO's Regional Office for the Americas (PAHO) Revolving Fund supports the programme.



Argentina Ministry of Health

The same story plays out in a small clinic in a remote area of Argentina and in a hospital in downtown Buenos Aires: a woman waits to have her 11-year-old daughter vaccinated against the human papillomavirus (HPV). In Argentina, whether or not a child gets vaccinated has nothing to do with socio-economic status. Health centres right across the country provide all children free and compulsory vaccines against 15 diseases. For girls there is a 16th – the WHO-recommended vaccine against HPV, which can cause cervical cancer.

[Find out more](#)

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Newsletter

June 15th, 2013

Number 77

Self-sufficiency in blood supply based on voluntary unpaid donors: an achievable goal

France and Sri Lanka, this year and next year's host countries for World Blood Donor Day, are self-sufficient in blood supply through voluntary unpaid blood donation.



Etablissement Français du Sang

Every year, France is able to treat a million patients with around three million units of locally collected blood and blood products. It is one of the 60 countries collecting 100% of its blood supply from voluntary unpaid blood donors.

World Blood Donor Day, held on 14 June every year, with France as this year's host country, has played a major role in promoting the goal of self-sufficiency in blood supply based on voluntary unpaid donors around the world.

[Find out more](#)

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Newsletter

June 30th, 2013

Number 78

Guideline: Calcium supplementation in pregnant women

This guideline provides global, evidence-informed recommendations on the use of calcium supplements as a public health intervention for the purpose of improving pregnancy outcomes.

[Download the publication](#)



Courtesy of Healthy Cities project office, Stavropol



A healthy lifestyle is the fashion in Russian cities

A number of cities in the Russian Federation have joined the national association of healthy towns, districts and communities, established as part of the international Healthy Cities project of the WHO Regional Office for Europe. The aim is to promote healthy lifestyles, create healthy living conditions, and prevent chronic diseases.

[Find out more](#)

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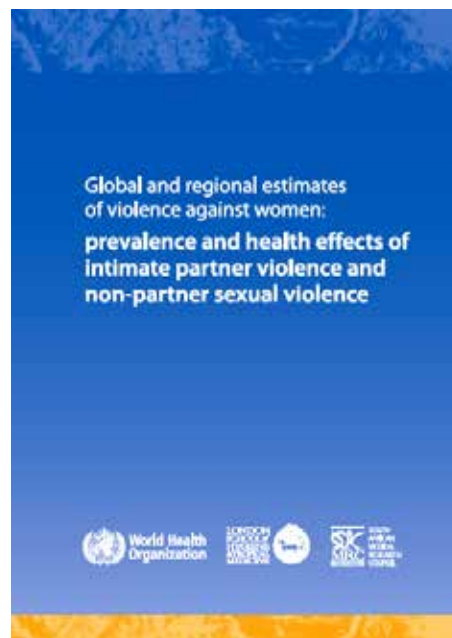
Newsletter

July 15th, 2013

Number 79

Global and regional estimates of violence against women

The report presents the first global systematic review of scientific data on the prevalence of two forms of violence against women: violence by an intimate partner (intimate partner violence) and sexual violence by someone other than a partner (non-partner sexual violence). It shows, for the first time, global and regional estimates of the prevalence of these two forms of violence, using data from around the world. Previous reporting on violence against women has not differentiated between partner- and nonpartner violence.



[Download the publication](#)

Violence against women: a problem of epidemic proportions

[Read more](#)

Physical or sexual violence is a public health problem that affects more than one third of all women globally, according to a new report. "These findings send a powerful message that violence against women is a global health problem of epidemic proportions," said Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General, WHO. "We also see that the world's health systems can and must do more for women who experience violence."

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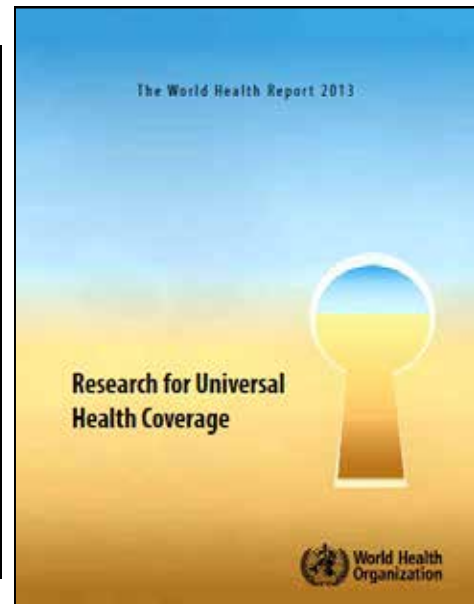
Newsletter

July 30th, 2013

Number 80

Research for universal health coverage World health report 2013

Universal health coverage ensures everyone has access to the health services they need without suffering financial hardship as a result. In December 2012, a UN resolution was passed encouraging governments to move towards providing universal access to affordable and quality health care services. As countries move towards it, common challenges are emerging -- challenges to which research can help provide answers.



The World health report: research for universal health coverage focuses on the importance of research in advancing progress towards universal health coverage. In addition, it identifies the benefits of increased investment in health research by low- and middle-income countries using case studies from around the world, and proposes ways to further strengthen this type of research.

[Download the publication](#)

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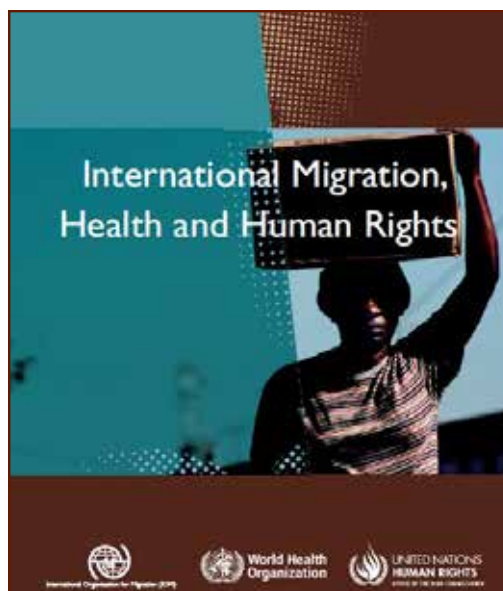
Newsletter

August 15th, 2013

Number 81

Migrant health

There are an estimated 1 billion migrants in the world today of whom 214 million international migrants and 740 million internal migrants. The collective health needs and implications of this sizeable population are considerable. Migration flows comprise a wide range of populations, such as workers, refugees, students, undocumented migrants and others, with each different health determinants, needs and levels of vulnerability.



In a globalized world defined by profound disparities, skill shortages, demographic imbalances, climate change as well as economic and political crises, natural as well as man-made disasters, migration is omnipresent. Migration is also essential for some societies to compensate for demographic trends and skill shortages and to assist home communities with remittances.

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Newsletter

August 30th, 2013

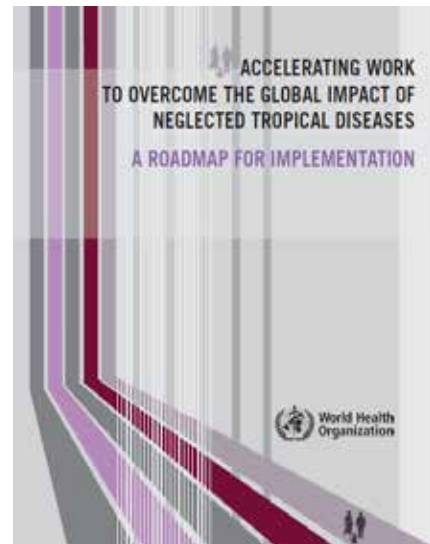
Number 82

Accelerating work to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases: a roadmap for implementation

One of the objectives of the WHO's strategic plan is to ensure "effective coordination and support provided to WHO Member States in order to provide access for all populations to interventions for the prevention, control, elimination and eradication of neglected tropical diseases, including zoonotic diseases".

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The purpose of "Accelerating work to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases: a roadmap for implementation" is to guide implementation of the policies and strategies set out in the "Global Plan to combat neglected tropical diseases 2008–2015" and developed in "Working to overcome the global impact of neglected tropical diseases". These documents highlight the devastating impacts of neglected tropical diseases on human health and the socioeconomic development of many impoverished communities.

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Newsletter

September 15th, 2013

Number 83

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Crisis in the Syrian Arab Republic

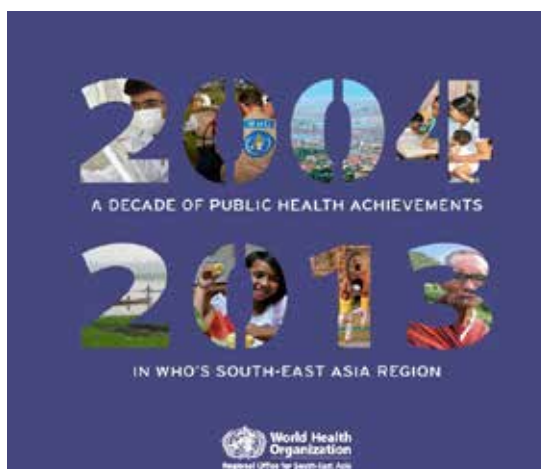
The number of Syrian people forced to seek shelter abroad since the civil war began in March 2011 has passed the 2 million mark.



A young girl is vaccinated against measles in the Irbid governorate of Jordan

The health situation in Syria continues to deteriorate with 60 % of public hospitals in Syria having limited or no capacity, shortages in essential medicines and increased risks of infectious diseases. In the first seven months of 2013, coordinated by WHO, the health sector reached 3.7 million people in Syria through health care delivery and distribution of medicines and medical material.

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Decade of
public health
achievements

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Newsletter

September 30th, 2013

Number 84

Violence against women

Violence against women is a global public health problem that has serious adverse effects on women's physical, mental, and reproductive health. It is increasingly recognized as a public health issue because of the expanding evidence base and growth of research documenting the magnitude and health effects of violence against women. For the first time, global prevalence estimates have been calculated based on all existing data from population-based studies showing that worldwide, 35% of women have experienced either intimate partner violence (physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner) or non-partner sexual violence or both in their lifetime. Multi-sectoral efforts are needed to combat this deep-rooted problem.



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Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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Newsletter

October 15th, 2013

Number 85

Global school health initiative

WHO's Global School Health Initiative, launched in 1995, seeks to mobilise and strengthen health promotion and education activities at the local, national, regional and global levels. The Initiative is designed to improve the health of students, school personnel, families and other members of the community through schools. The goal of WHO's Global School Health Initiative is to increase the number of schools that can truly be called "Health-Promoting Schools". Although definitions will vary, depending on need and circumstance, a Health-Promoting School can be characterised as a school constantly strengthening its capacity as a healthy setting for living, learning and working.

[Read more](#)

[Find out more](#)



HIV education in a school in Africa

An effective school health programme can be one of the most cost effective investments a nation can make to simultaneously improve education and health. WHO promotes school health programmes as a strategic means to prevent important health risks among youth and to engage the education sector in efforts to change the educational, social, economic and political conditions that affect risk.

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Newsletter

October 30th, 2013

Number 86

Human Rights

The WHO Constitution was the first international instrument to enshrine the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as a fundamental right of every human being ("the right to health"). The right to health in international human rights law is a claim to a set of social arrangements - norms, institutions, laws, and an enabling environment - that can best secure the enjoyment of this right. It is an inclusive right extending not only to timely and appropriate health care but also to the underlying determinants of health, for example access to health information, access to water and food, housing, etc. The right to health is subject to progressive realization and acknowledges resource constraints.



However, it also imposes on states various obligations which are of immediate effect, such as the guarantee that the right will be exercised without discrimination of any kind and the obligation to take deliberate, concrete and targeted steps towards its full realization.

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Newsletter

November 15th, 2013

Number 87

Indigenous populations

Indigenous populations are communities that live within, or are attached to, geographically distinct traditional habitats or ancestral territories, and who identify themselves as being part of a distinct cultural group, descended from groups present in the area before modern states were created and current borders defined. They generally maintain cultural and social identities, and social, economic, cultural and political institutions, separate from the mainstream or dominant society or culture. However, it also imposes on states various obligations which are of immediate effect, such as the guarantee that the right will be exercised without discrimination of any kind and the obligation to take deliberate, concrete and targeted steps towards its full realization. There are an estimated 370 million indigenous peoples living



in more than 70 countries worldwide. They represent a rich diversity of cultures, religions, traditions, languages and histories; yet continue to be among the world's most marginalized population groups. The health status of indigenous peoples varies significantly from that of non-indigenous population groups in countries all over the world.

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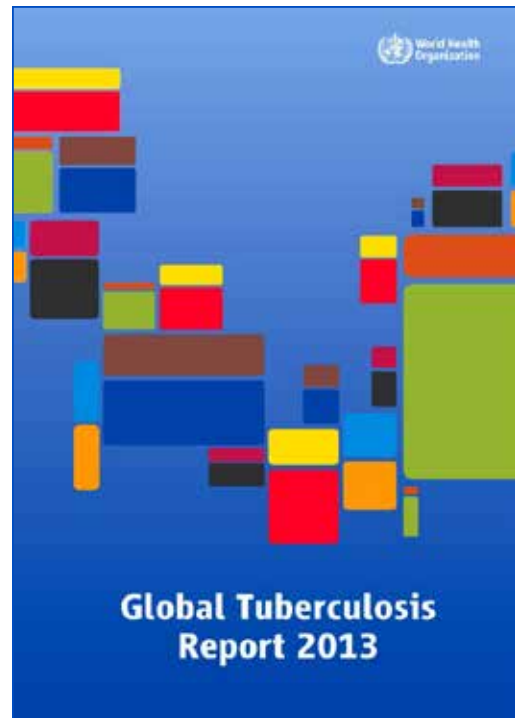
Newsletter

November 30th, 2013

Number 88

Global Tuberculosis Report 2013

This is the eighteenth global report on tuberculosis (TB) published by WHO in a series that started in 1997. It provides a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic and progress in implementing and financing TB prevention, care and control at global, regional and country levels using data reported by 197 countries and territories that account for over 99% of the world's TB cases. Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affect the lungs. Tuberculosis is curable and preventable. About one-third of the world's population has latent TB, which means people have been infected by TB bacteria but are not (yet) ill with disease and cannot transmit the disease.



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Newsletter

December 15th, 2013

Number 89

WHO guidelines for screening and treatment of precancerous lesions for cervical cancer prevention

This guideline provides recommendations for strategies for a screen-and-treat programme. It builds upon the existing WHO guidelines: Use of cryotherapy for cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (published in 2011) and on the new WHO guidelines for treatment of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia 2–3 and glandular adenocarcinoma in situ (forthcoming). This guideline is intended primarily for policy-makers, managers, programme officers, and other professionals in the health sector who have responsibility for choosing strategies for cervical cancer prevention, at country, regional and district levels.



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Philippines: Bringing the health response into focus

Typhoon

Haiyan tore through the central islands of the Philippines five weeks ago, killing over 6000 people, injuring some 26 000 and leaving 4 million others homeless.



WHO/F. Guerrero

It also ravaged medical facilities across the region. In this photo story, WHO brings the emergency health response into focus and looks at the immense challenges ahead to sustain and expand critical health services and prevent disease, as the country's battered health system is restored.

[Read more](#)

WHO responding to health needs caused by typhoon Haiyan (Yolanda) 2013

The National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) of the Philippines reported 5 786 deaths, 26 233 injured, and 1 786 missing after the Typhoon Haiyan (local name Yolanda) hit the Philippines 8 November 2013. A total of 11 241 237 people have been affected, 4 006 747 are displaced. Vaccination efforts have moved to Region VI, from which immunization operations in Palo, Tanauan, Dulag and other highly affected coastal areas will be supported.

[Read more](#)

GLOBAL NETWORK



Newsletters

2014



Global Network of WHO Collaborating Centres
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Newsletter

January 15th, 2014

Number 91

HINARI: Providing access to health literature

HINARI Access to Research in Health Programme provides free or very low cost online access to the major journals in biomedical and related social sciences to local, not-for-profit institutions in developing countries.



WHO

HINARI was launched in January 2002, with some 1500 journals from 6 major publishers: Blackwell, Elsevier Science, the Harcourt Worldwide STM Group, Wolters Kluwer International Health & Science, Springer Verlag and John Wiley, following the principles in a Statement of Intent signed in July 2001. Since that time, the numbers of participating publishers and of journals and other full-text resources has grown continuously. Today more than 160 publisher partners are offering more than 42,000 information resources in HINARI and many others are joining the programme.

The HINARI Access to Research in Health programme enables low- and middle-income countries to gain access to one of the world's largest collections of biomedical and health literature. Sudan's Federal Ministry of Health recently celebrated 10 years of membership in the programme.

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Newsletter

January 30th, 2014

Number 92

WHO ensures wounded in South Sudan get to hospital for life-saving treatment

More than 2500 people have been injured in the ongoing crisis in South Sudan. WHO is working with partners on the ground to ensure they get the medical care and supplies they need.



WHO/ P Ajello

As leader of the humanitarian health cluster, WHO supports the evacuation of wounded patients to hospitals where specialist care is available and provides medical supplies and equipment to health partners caring for patients in South Sudan.

Kuol Fhar, a 28-year-old father of 4, sits on his bed with a beaming smile despite having just undergone surgery on his left arm at the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) level II hospital in Juba. Kuol is from Ayod county in Jonglei state, where heavy fighting is taking place on the outskirts of the city of Bor. Although he cannot remember exactly when he was flown to the hospital in Juba, he is thankful for having been evacuated to a facility where he has received medical treatment and proper care.

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Newsletter

February 15th, 2014

Number 93

Immunizing against measles in the Central African Republic

Immunizing children against measles is a priority in the Central African Republic.



WHO/Bachir Chaibou

In January 2014, more than 115 000 children aged 6 months to 15 years were vaccinated in health centres across the country by national health workers with support from WHO, the International Red Cross and partners.

As of 2012, of every 100 children born in the country, 13 died before their fifth birthday. Measles can kill up to 1 in 25 children affected with the disease, and remains a public health problem in the Central African Republic. People, therefore, welcomed the vaccination campaign. This photo essay depicts a 3-day vaccination campaign rolled out in January 2014 from a health centre in Guitangola, in the district of the national capital of Bangui.

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Newsletter

February 28th, 2014

Number 94

Protecting unborn babies from alcohol-related harm

Aboriginal women in Australia are taking the lead

Alcohol and drug abuse during pregnancy can harm babies. It can also cause miscarriage, preterm birth, and stillbirth. If an unborn baby is exposed to alcohol it can be affected for life.



WHO/J.Fitzpatrick

Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASD) is the umbrella term for impairments of the growth and development of the brain and the central nervous system caused by drinking alcohol during pregnancy. Aboriginal women in Australia have shown how communities can take action to protect their women and babies from alcohol-related harm in pregnancy.

As in many disadvantaged communities around the world, alcohol abuse was common half a decade ago. The high consumption of alcohol resulted in high numbers of alcohol-related deaths and suicides, and widespread violence and crime.

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Newsletter

March 15th, 2014

Number 95

Down to zero: Nigeria stops guinea-worm disease in its tracks

From more than 650 000 cases in 1988 to zero today, Nigeria has successfully stopped transmission of guinea-worm disease, also known as dracunculiasis.



WHO/G Biswas

Guinea-worm disease (dracunculiasis) is almost exclusively found in poor, rural communities in low-income countries. It is a crippling, parasitic disease caused by a thread-like worm that grows up to 100cm long and migrates inside the body. Transmission occurs when people drink water contaminated with parasite-infected water fleas.

Around one year after infection, one or more worms emerge from the skin through a painful blister, often on the leg. To soothe the excruciating pain, people often immerse the infected area in water. The worms then re-infect the water with thousands of larvae that are ingested by water fleas and the life cycle starts again.

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Newsletter

March 30th, 2014

Number 96

Faster diagnosis key to finding drug-resistant tuberculosis in the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova is among the WHO European Region's 18 high-priority countries for TB control and one of the world's 27 countries with the highest burden of MDR-TB.



PAS Center/Valeriu Crudu

Almost one third of people newly diagnosed with TB in the Republic of Moldova, and two thirds of those returning for treatment, have MDR-TB. Significant ongoing transmission is due to many factors including unjustified and lengthy hospital stays, poor infection control in TB hospitals, poverty and poor living conditions and late diagnosis.

As part of key recommendations made by WHO to combat drug-resistant TB, the Republic of Moldova is introducing rapid diagnostic tools for MDR-TB at the point-of-care. Since 2012, Xpert MTB/RIF assay units have been installed in 30 district and municipal TB services across the country.

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Newsletter

April 15th, 2014

Number 97

Clean household energy can save people's lives

Air pollution in and outside of people's homes is the world's largest single environmental health risk. In India, major sources of air pollution in the home are tobacco smoke and the smoke from the use of solid fuels with inefficient and leaky cook stoves.



WHO/Ajay Pillariseti

Millions of women in rural India spend several hours every day cooking meals on smoky ovens or open fires within their homes. Because cooking chores most often fall to women, they and the young children around them are the first victims of smoke-related acute and chronic respiratory and cardiovascular illnesses.

According to WHO estimates, in 2012 there were close to 1.7 million premature deaths attributed to household air pollution from cooking in the South East Asia region with India shouldering the biggest burden. Most of these premature deaths were due to noncommunicable diseases such as heart disease, stroke, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and lung cancer. Indoor air pollution is also responsible for a significant number of acute respiratory illnesses in young children.

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Newsletter

April 30th, 2014

Number 98

WHO ramps up to address Ebola challenges

As the Ebola outbreak evolves in Guinea and Liberia, WHO continues to expand its activities by sending additional expertise to assist in all areas of the response.



WHO

More than 65 public health experts are working with WHO and its Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) partners, assisting ministries of health and other partners in the 2 countries. This work includes supporting clinical management of patients, contact tracing, disease surveillance, laboratory work, logistics, as well as communications and sharing of information to help people living in communities protect themselves from the disease.

New infections must be prevented in order to contain the outbreak. Raising awareness of the risk factors for infection and the protective measures that should be taken is the only way to stop transmission and subsequent deaths. Close unprotected physical contact with Ebola patients should be avoided, and those who have died from the disease should be promptly and safely buried.

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Newsletter

May 15th, 2014

Number 99

Reaching every child: the polio programme leaves its legacy

The first challenge was to track the people that needed to be reached. WHO India worked closely with the health authorities to develop a plan to locate migrant populations and incorporate them into immunization plans.



WHO/ S. Jain

Each primary health centre was made responsible for identification and mapping of migratory/mobile settlements in its area. Doctors enlisted the help of auxiliary nurse midwives, community health workers, social health activists and polio vaccinators to walk through their areas to identify and map pockets of migratory populations and estimate the number of households. This information was then used to plan targeted polio vaccination campaigns.

The strategy identified more than 400 000 high-risk settlements, including urban slums and migrant settlements at construction sites and around brick kilns, as well as other nomadic sites such as migratory fishing villages.

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Newsletter

May 30th, 2014

Number 100

Bangladesh expands training of midwives to improve maternal and neonatal health

Bangladesh has made great progress in reducing the infant mortality rate and on improving maternal health as part of the Millennium Development Goals. For example, the maternal mortality ratio was halved between 2000 and 2013. But for every 100 000 live births 170 women still die, and 24 of every 1000 newborn babies don't survive their first month.



WHO

To improve this situation and fill gaps in maternal and neonatal health provision, the Government of Bangladesh, supported by WHO and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA), is aiming to train 3000 midwives by 2015.

Bangladesh's midwifery education has been developed with technical and financial assistance from WHO and UNFPA to ensure it is targeted, effective, and in line with international standards.

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Newsletter

June 15th, 2014

Number 101

World Health Statistics 2014

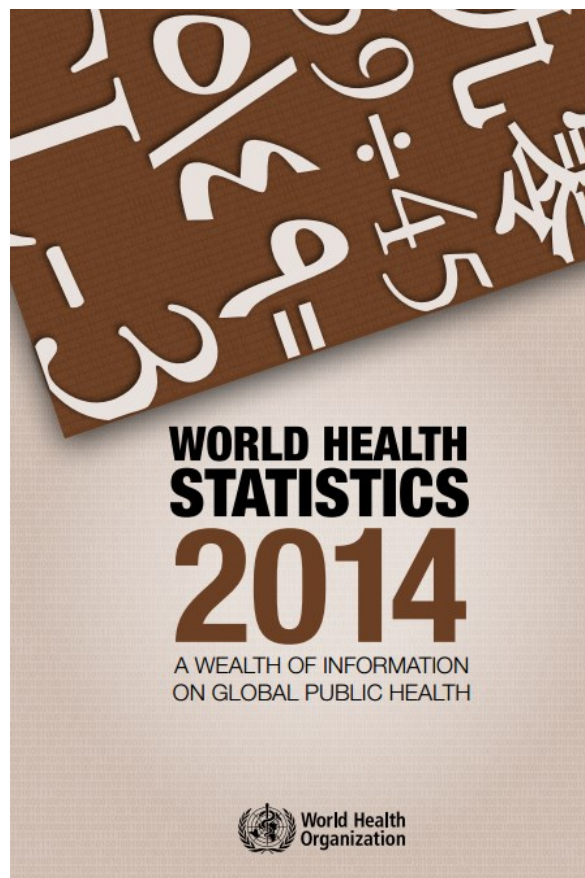
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World Health Statistics 2014

contains WHO's annual compilation of health-related data for its 194

Member States, and includes a summary of the progress made towards achieving the health-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and associated targets.



This year, it also includes highlight summaries on the ongoing commitment to end preventable maternal deaths; on the need to act now to combat rising levels of childhood obesity; on recent trends in both life expectancy and premature deaths; and on the crucial role of civil registration and vital statistics systems in national and

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