

# IHP news 804 : Final Dispatch from Nagasaki

( 23 November 2024)

The weekly International Health Policies (IHP) newsletter is an initiative of the Health Policy unit at the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, Belgium.

Dear Colleagues,

As my [‘Foreign Gaze’](#) had turned into a ‘Sleepy Gaze’ ( annex sore throat) by the end of the week at the 8<sup>th</sup> [global HSR symposium in Nagasaki](#), I hope you don’t expect a three-page blog on HSR 2024 in this intro 😊. But a few quick thoughts nevertheless.

Russia and NATO are increasingly playing ‘Russian roulette’ in the Ukraine war (*with Vlad largely to blame, in my opinion*), but Nagasaki provided a poignant reminder of how horrible nuclear weapons really are. A **visit to the Atomic Bomb museum** here taught us everything you need to know about this: that hopefully never again, mankind will resort to these weapons (by now hundreds of times as ‘powerful’ as back then). The shocking contrast between the normal, peaceful start of that fateful day (9 August 1945) and what happened then in just a few split-seconds (and the horrific aftermath), in combination with the sheer ‘coincidence’ that on August 9 the ‘Fat Bomb’ was thrown on Nagasaki (and not another target), has a lasting impact on whoever visits the museum.

Against this WW II backdrop, at the HSR Symposium, the **second plenary on conflict** commemorated the many victims of ongoing wars all over the world, among others with a [powerful moment of silence](#). As HSG put it, “... a minute of silence to honour those affected by ongoing conflicts worldwide. A poignant reminder of the urgent need for inclusive, resilient health systems that uphold dignity and equity in the face of adversity.”

The conference didn’t always get it right though on the ongoing wars, certainly according some participants far better placed to assess this (than me). The HSG Board still – at least in my opinion – underestimates the impact of the horror in Gaza (*as compared to other ongoing wars, often equally terrible for sure*), on the relation between the ‘Global South’ and ‘the West’ (with far-reaching ramifications also for the Global Health Community, including in terms of trust). Having said that, the final address by the new HSG chair, Tolib Mirzoev, at the closing plenary, got it more than right, unlike the day before at the HSG annual meeting where some unfortunate words were spoken (*as some present in the room pointed out*).

Yet, in the end, we all make HSG (and the symposium) what it is, and in that respect, this was a damned good conference. With perhaps the closing plenary as the final highlight (*although I’m slightly biased 😊*). And that’s not even going into the networking (*I’m not the most social person on this planet, especially when I get grumpy due to chronic lack of sleep, but from my more sociable colleagues and many others I heard they engaged in some fabulous networking*)

A few final personal notes perhaps re HSR 2024: (1) the past few weeks, there’s been a **stampede from X towards Bluesky**. At HSR2024, I was involved in a session on the ‘ethics of using X - especially panelists and participants from the Global South made it clear that the last word has not been said

on social media for HPSR researchers, yet – “to be continued” in other words. (2) I remain convinced that **HSR symposia in times of a planetary emergency should be organized once every four years** (instead of every two years). An alternative, though, could be to allow participants only to participate every four years – in other words, whoever attended this symposium in 2024, would only be able to apply again for 2028 (while capping the number of participants perhaps at 700-1000 for every symposium). And so in 2026, only people who were not in Nagasaki would be allowed to join (*I’d make an exception for the HSG board, given the incredible work they put into organizing such a symposium*). #rotation

But enough about HSR 2024 for now. In this newsletter issue, we will also come back on the **G20 Leaders summit in Brazil** (*where among others G20 leaders at last agreed that the super-rich should pay their fair share – a major historic shift – even if only a first little step; WHO’s Investment round culminated in a G20 event; and much more...*).

While plenty of [global health observers](#) and organisations are pondering (/fearing) the looming impact of Trump 2.0 (*I personally prefer the term “Trump II”, as it has the right Caligula/Nero-style gravitas*), and [MAHA is already going “strong”](#), far away in **Baku, at COP 29**, the Trump transition provided no doubt also the ominous backdrop for plenty of discussions and negotiations. (*Rumour has it that everybody is a ‘climate and health’ expert now at these COPs, unlike ten years ago 😊*.)

You’ll find some coverage & analysis on the COP in this issue, as well as an **overview of some other reports, publications**, ... - as usual.

PS: **Next IHP issue: in about two weeks (around 8 Dec)!**

Enjoy your reading.

Kristof Decoster

## Featured Article

### COP29: A message from the heart, a hope from the future

**Davide Ziveri** (planetary Health working group of Be-Cause Health)

The Climate COP1 was held in 1995, when I was eighteen. Nobody cared, but thousands and millions occupied the streets from Porto Alegre to Seattle and Genova shouting that “Another world is possible” in that period. We, the youth (at that moment I was one of them), challenged the globalization frame that emerged after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Now, we realize we were right: as Bruno Latour said, we cannot live on a globe, instead, we should live on this planet. More than 20 years later, I landed in Baku, but the footprint of those protests is too far behind, and the current discourse on our society facing a climate crisis is trapped in geopolitical constraints, lobbyists’ fake news, and a collective fear of uncertainty.

Astoundingly, at a plenary of people on the last day of the COP29, young women and men, sisters and brothers activists from Palestine, Lebanon, South Soudan, Eastern Europe, Indigenous people, and people with disabilities joined their strong, sorrowful, and angry voices to the mainstreamed cacophony. With a lot of emotion among the audience of COP's observers, those activists remind us that all struggles are so intertwined.

There are good reasons: often, the causes and consequences of the climate crisis are the same of the outputs of colonialism and extractivist capitalism. The climate crisis is a terrible and suicidal form of violence. COP29 became an international peace conference.

As Mahatma Gandhi taught us, we cannot reach justice (or climate justice) with blood on our hands: if life on the planet matters (that's why scientists and politicians were in Azerbaijan, at the end of the day), all life matters!

This means that the great transition we need is not about technological solutions and is only partially in the hands of blind politicians who do not respect the willingness and mandate of their citizens, a huge majority not at all guilty for the fossil fuel system consequences. It is about an ethical revolution, as statesmen proposed in the aftermath of World War II. We built a new world on a different basis, Human Rights. Now, it's time to change again to transform our society and lifestyles considering future generations and non-humans. Those activists brought the courage that UNFCCC parties lack.

I guess that for media this is folklore and for governments, this is another discourse from the margins. But in systemic thinking there are no margins, everything is connected. The voices of the activists could sound dissonant in the premises of the formal blue area of the COP, but it is a core lesson learned from this COP edition for global policymakers. The inspiring keynote delivered in sign language by a deaf person who did not use speech represents the power of the voices of the voiceless well. Such a passionate truth shakes the narrative of this COP, overall disappointing and frustrating, but also inhabited by resistance and hope.

Decades of scientific data about the ongoing climate crisis have not changed politicians' mindset. I hope that at the next COP in Brazil (unfortunately not in Porto Alegre), communities, in their diversity and in their cared territories, will take the lead in renegotiating our relationship with nature.

For now, my main takeaway from COP29 is the echo from the heart of activists that brings a message of hope from the future.

## Highlights of the week

### Read of the week

#### The Foreign Gaze: essays on Global Health

Seye Abimbola; <https://www.editions.ird.fr/produit/728/9782709930437/the-foreign-gaze>

Can now be ordered. Pdf copy can also be downloaded.

**“The field of research known as academic global health is in the midst of a scientific debate that is questioning its epistemological foundations. This book contributes to that questioning. Through a series of essays that weave together personal narratives and conceptual reflections, it shows how as researchers in academic global health, we defer to a distant, powerful, foreign gaze, whose power shapes our pose and what we can see or say. Many of our accepted knowledge practices – how we make, use, share and value knowledge – are steeped in structural prejudice and heavily peppered by epistemic injustice. To transform academic global health, we need a critical mass of people who can articulate why many of our accepted knowledge practices are unfair, people who know where to aim their efforts to entrench just practices, people who can get others to join in those efforts. This book was written to help build that critical mass.”**

## A bit more on HSR 2024 in Nagasaki

No doubt, far more to come in the coming weeks from researchers & other participants in the coming weeks, reflecting (in blogs or Comments) on HSR2024 and specific sessions.

### HSG - New HSG Board members

<https://healthsystemsglobal.org/news/health-systems-global-welcomes-its-new-board-members/>

As already mentioned, Tolib Mirzoev replaces Adnan Hyder (outgoing chair) as the new chair.

- And a link: [HSG - Call for Proposals: Thematic Working Groups \(TWGs\) – Now Open!](#)

Feb 21.

### HP&P (Supplement) - Health Systems Performance in the Political Agenda: Intersectoral Collaboration and Integrative Governance on the Road to Health in all policies

<https://healthsystemsglobal.org/news/supplement-launch-2024/>

**“Health Systems Global (HSG) and Health Policy and Planning (HPP), with the support of the the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), are pleased to announce the publication of a Special Supplement – Health Systems Performance in the Political Agenda: Intersectoral Collaboration and Integrative Governance on the Road to Health in all Policies. This Supplement distills and spotlights some of the rich debates and discussions from the Seventh Global Symposium on Health Systems Research (HSR2022) – Health Systems Performance in the Political Agenda: Sharing Lessons for Current and Future Global Challenges. ....”**

You find the HP&P supplement [here](#).

PS: Some more great HPSR papers were published this week – check out the extra ‘Papers’ section (scroll down till the bottom).

## G20 Leaders’ meeting in Rio (18-19 Nov)

We first start with the **Leaders’ Declaration**, and then zoom in on some agenda points and initiatives launched – as well as the (culminating) **WHO investment round pledging event**. Towards the end, also some more general comments on Brazil & health diplomacy.

### G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders’ Declaration

<https://www.g20.org/en/documents/g20-rio-de-janeiro-leaders-declaration>

“The leaders of the G20 met in Rio de Janeiro on 18-19 November, 2024, to address major global challenges and crises and promote strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. **In the city that is the birthplace of the Sustainable Development Agenda, leaders reaffirmed their commitment to building a fair world and a sustainable planet, prioritizing the fight against inequalities in all their dimensions, without leaving anyone behind.** The Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration establishes actions towards concrete results, **based on the priorities of the Brazilian G20 presidency: (i) social inclusion and the fight against hunger and poverty; (ii) sustainable development, energy transitions and climate action; and (iii) the reform of global governance institutions.** The document also enshrines the achievements of the Brazilian presidency throughout the year, such as the **Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty, the Task Force on a Global Mobilization against Climate Change and the Call to Action on Global Governance Reform.**”

- [Leaders’ Declaration](#)

Ps: **section 25 re global health.**

- Some overall analysis via [Devex:](#)

“... the G20 Leaders’ Declaration — a **hefty 22 pages packed with commitments.** In it, leaders pledged to accelerate progress on the SDGs, tackle climate change, **support food security, and even push billionaires to pay their fair share of taxes — though a proposed 2% tax rate didn’t make the cut.** They also **promised reforms for the U.N. Security Council and development banks,** aiming to make them more inclusive and effective. These moves are a significant achievement for Brazil’s G20 presidency, according to experts....”

### Devex - G20 leaders have agreed: It’s time to tax the rich. What does that mean?

<https://www.devex.com/news/g20-leaders-have-agreed-it-s-time-to-tax-the-rich-what-does-that-mean-108799>

“Details are thin, but most are still marking its inclusion in the **G20 Leaders’ Declaration** as a success.”

‘...During the Group of 20 summit, leaders from the globe’s largest economies have agreed to ensure ultra-high net worth individuals are appropriately taxed. **“This is the first time we have a global agenda talking about how to tax, globally and through coordinated principles, rich individuals,”** said Susana Ruíz, the **international tax lead at Oxfam International**. “Before that, it was completely banned from the agenda.””

“On Monday, the G20 published its Leaders’ Declaration, a formal statement released at every summit that outlines the agreements, priorities, and commitments made during deliberations. In that document, **the leaders agreed that “progressive taxation is one of the key tools” to reduce inequality, and that going forward, the G20 nations would “engage cooperatively to ensure ultra-high-net-worth individuals are effectively taxed.”** That includes the **United States**, which the majority of the world’s billionaires call home, and **Argentina**, which has been pushing against the tax for months.”

“...**The declaration did not include who would be targeted with that tax, what the tax rate would be, or where any additional tax revenue would go.** But the hope is that the cash could be channeled toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, especially as they relate to climate change.”

PS: **“Zucman’s proposed tax rate didn’t make it into the declaration,** and Garcia admitted that “the 2% proposal didn’t fly exactly as high as we wanted in the text.” But **despite that, most following the deliberations — including Zucman — are viewing the language on an ultra-high net worth wealth tax as a success.** The economist called the declaration a “historic decision,” and pushed for the negotiations to continue immediately. **“Now is the time to turn words into action and launch an inclusive international negotiation, extending beyond G20 countries, on the reform of the taxation of the super-rich,”** Zucman wrote in a **press release**, which was published on Monday night.”

- See also [Devex](#) : “.... **The leaders said they “look forward to continuing to discuss these issues in the G20 and other relevant forums.” But they didn’t say which forums those might be, failing to find consensus** on whether to focus more on the [United Nations](#) or the [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development](#) for instance, which was a fault line when G20 finance ministers agreed [similar language in July.....](#)”

## **Guardian - Lula launches alliance to combat world hunger as Brazil hosts G20**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/nov/18/g20-brazil-lula-hunger-alliance>

“**The [Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty](#)** has a total of 148 signatories, including 82 countries, 26 international organisations, 9 financial institutions, and 31 philanthropic foundations and non-governmental organisations....” With more to come soon, no doubt.

- See also **Devex** – [Brazil launches a G20 plan to slash hunger across the world](#)

With in-depth analysis of **governance, current state of affairs, ...** Recommended read.

## Devex - What's in the G20 road map to transform multilateral development banks?

<https://www.devex.com/news/what-s-in-the-g20-road-map-to-transform-multilateral-development-banks-108761>

**“The document — led by Brazil within its G20 presidency — consists of 12 short- and medium-term recommendations and 44 actions.”**

**“... This plan reflects ongoing collaboration between the G20 and the banks. On April 20, 2024, the largest MDBs published their own set of commitments on how they plan to work together. That document, which committed the banks to lending an additional \$300 billion to \$400 billion over the next decade, ultimately helped inform the G20 road map....”**

**“ The strategy is divided into three pillars: Bigger, better, and more effective, following the now-familiar mantra that has been used to describe MDB reform.....”**

## FT - G20 failure to explicitly back fossil fuel transition upsets COP29 talks

<https://www.ft.com/content/83521417-f56e-4b65-965f-1072b912c30a>

From earlier this week. **“Fears rise of stalemate on climate action in wake of Trump election victory.”**

**“... The G20 failure to make a direct mention of the need to transition away from fossil fuels in its leaders' statement in Rio has escalated fears among key negotiators at the UN COP29 summit in Baku that Donald Trump's US election victory has put the brakes on climate action. Almost 200 countries agreed to transition away from fossil fuels in their energy systems by 2050 at last year's UN COP28 summit in Dubai, with the G7 group of major economies reiterating this pledge in their leaders' communique earlier this year. Many climate ministers, negotiators and non-profit organisations at COP29 had hoped the G20 would send a strong signal of support for the transition away from fossil fuels in their statement following the election of Trump, whose campaign slogan had been “drill baby drill” in reference to scaling up oil and gas production. The expectation that the G20 leaders would include a direct reference to the transition away from fossil fuels in its leaders' declaration in Rio followed its backing by finance, foreign affairs and climate ministers from the group in October. Instead, the G20 statement said countries “welcome and fully subscribe to the ambitious and balanced outcome of the UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai (COP28), in particular the UAE Consensus”, without an explicit mention of the agreed shift from fossil fuels. The removal of the phrase from a longer draft version of the statement caused a big upset among several lead negotiators of large countries at the COP29 climate summit in Baku, where they have battled for the first week over how to take forward last year's fossil fuel agreement. Several lead negotiators said the failure to include the direct reference to fossil fuels would make the talks in Baku more difficult.....”**

## WHO Investment Round: culminating moment at G20 Summit as leaders pledge

<https://www.who.int/news/item/19-11-2024-who-investment-round--culminating-moment-at-g20-summit-as-leaders-pledge>

**“The first-ever Investment Round of the World Health Organization (WHO) reached a culminating moment during the G20 Leaders' Summit today in Rio de Janeiro, chaired by the President of Brazil, H.E. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Heads of state and government at the G20 voiced strong support for a sustainably funded WHO, additional financial pledges were announced, and incoming G20 Chair South Africa pledged to maintain a focus in 2025 on sustainably financing the Organization. The support was reflected in the G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration which said: “We reiterate the central coordinating role of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the global health architecture, supported by adequate, predictable, transparent, flexible and sustainable financing. We support the conducting of the WHO Investment Round as an additional measure for financing the WHO activities.” “**

**“The Investment Round is raising funds for WHO’s strategy for global health, the Fourteenth General Programme of Work, which can save an additional 40 million lives over the next four years. The Investment Round has succeeded in shifting WHO’s funding model so that it is more predictable, flexible and resilient. “**

**“With the pledges received from Australia, Indonesia and Spain at the Leaders’ Summit, WHO has now received pledges of US\$ 1.7 billion. Including other signed funding agreements and expected funding from partnerships, WHO has funding of US\$ 3.8 billion for the next four years. This means that WHO has raised 53% of the US\$ 7.1 billion funding needed, successfully increasing predictability as compared to 2020, when WHO had only 17% of funding secured for its previous strategy. WHO, Member States and partners will continue efforts to cover the remaining gap so the Organization can deliver on the strategy for 2025–2028. ...”**

**“The Investment Round has also successfully broadened WHO’s donor base, improving its funding resilience. Since its launch in May, there have been 70 new pledges from Member States, and philanthropic and private sector donors, 39 of which are contributing voluntary funds for the first time. This is making WHO’s funding more diversified and thus marks a milestone in the Organization’s evolution. Seven of these new donors are low-income countries and 21 are middle-income countries, representing a shift in WHO’s funding base. This shift also demonstrates broad-based recognition of the need to invest in health and in WHO. ... Forty-six donors have so far pledged more flexible funding, compared to 35 in the last four years, increasing the ability of WHO to use the funds where they are most needed. ...”**

- More coverage and analysis via [Devex](#):

**“WHO expects more pledges after this week, including from France, Japan, and Portugal. The U.S., its biggest donor country, has not made a pledge, but WHO officials said they expected that. “The United States has been very clear from the get-go when we started the investment round that due to the timing of their elections, they will not be able to make a pledge in this current cycle. So we've never taken that into account or into our calculations for the success of the investment round,” said Catharina Boehme, WHO assistant director-general for external relations and governance, last week ahead of the summit. She said however that [they have existing grant agreements with the United States.....”](#)**

- See also [HPW - WHO Hits Halfway Mark in 2025-28 Budget ‘Ask’ After \\$1.7 Billion in New Pledges Roll in at G20 Summit](#)



“... **Australia, Indonesia, Spain and the United Kingdom** were [among the G20 countries](#) to make the largest pledges at the leaders’ summit in Rio de Janeiro, chaired by Brazil’s President H.E. Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. They committed \$410 million, \$300 million, \$620 million and \$392 million respectively....”

“... Notably, **several other large G20 members such as [France and Canada](#) have not yet made commitments to the WHO “Investment Round” – nor has the [United States](#)**, where support for the global health agency by the incoming administration of President-elect Donald Trump remains uncertain, following his withdrawal from the organization altogether in 2020, during his last term as president.....”

**“The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Islamic Development Bank, and Africa Development Bank are among the leading non-state donors.”**

PS: **“During the COVID pandemic, WHO was criticized for its heavy reliance on funding from the [Gates Foundation](#). Countries like the [United States](#) accused WHO of going soft on [China](#). The Investment Round thus was aimed to broaden WHO donor base to reduce its reliance on a few donors and keep its agenda independent.....”**

- See also [GHF – WHO Secures Half Its Target For Funds Amid Dire Geopolitics. More Predictable Financing, But Insufficient](#)

*“WHO says it has been able to secure commitments up to half of its initial goal of raising US \$7.1 billion for its next strategy. **Middle income countries have stepped up in their commitments.**”*

**“...This week, WHO’s first Investment Round event at the G20 Leaders’ Summit was lackluster with only a few additional member states pledging support, including [Australia, Indonesia and Spain](#). Some of the biggest developing countries among others, have been conspicuous by no or limited funding. **South Africa takes over the G20 Presidency next year is expected to continue supporting WHO’s efforts to improve its financing.** .... ““[Analysis from health financing experts show](#), that as per currently available information, **no pledges were made from the Americas region.....”****

PS: **“For WHO in particular, the U.S. is one of the largest sovereign donors representing [22% of all assessed contributions](#). The organization’s emergencies work is heavily dependent on the U.S., sources say. “**

**“At that time [i.e. first Trump administration], with the U.S. withdrawal from WHO (reversed subsequently), Germany became a [leading donor to WHO](#), stepping in to fill the gap in financing. Uncertainties remain with Germany’s domestic political transitions. **So, WHO will need to look elsewhere sources familiar with the developments have indicated. (Germany’s situation might also have implications for both Gavi and the Global Fund in the coming months, sources say.)”****

- And a link from earlier this week, via [Devex](#):

PS: **“Boehme (WHO) said the investment round has been successful in three ways. It received political commitment from the level of heads of state, expanded the number of donors that are providing WHO with voluntary contributions, and created more predictability in WHO’s funding.”**

“...WHO also received a “firm commitment” from South African President Cyril Ramaphosa to help in fully meeting WHO’s funding needs for its program of work for the next four years during South Africa’s Group of 20 major economies presidency next year, Boehme said.....”

## **Global Health Hub Germany- Culmination of the WHO Investment Round at the G20: Significant Step Towards Sustainable and Predictable Funding for WHO**

(by R Garcia & C Benn) <https://www.globalhealthhub.de/de/news/detail/culmination-of-the-who-investment-round-at-the-g20-significant-step-towards-sustainable-and-predictable-funding-for-who>

In-depth analysis.

### **Devex - Did the G20 move the needle on debt?**

<https://www.devex.com/news/did-the-g20-move-the-needle-on-debt-108815>

(gated) “The elephant is on the move,” said Laura Kelly of the IIED. “But the elephant needs to move further and faster.”

“Today, 3.3 billion people are living in countries that spend more on their debt interest payments than they do on education or health. It’s something that throughout the last year, the Group of 20 largest economies has been trying to address — and an issue that was particularly pushed by Brazil, which held the group’s presidency. But as the G20 Summit came to a close this week, most experts felt the lack of decisive action on debt weighed nearly as heavy as the debt itself.”

“As ambitious as the Brazilian presidency has been, the lack of implementation of that progress — right now, in the midst of a global crisis — is absolutely horrifying,” said Eric LeCompte, the executive director of nonprofit Jubilee USA Network. “The majority of the world’s countries are facing debt crises, and we have the major decision-makers of the world, the G20, not being able to make decisions.”.....”

### **Reuters - Biden pledges record \$4 billion to World Bank fund for poorest countries**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/biden-pledges-record-4-billion-world-bank-fund-poorest-countries-2024-11-18/>

“Biden makes pledge in closed-door G20 session in Brazil-sources. World Bank seeks record top-up of IDA fund for poor countries. U.S. funding of \$4 bln pledge would come after Trump takes office.”

“U.S. President Joe Biden pledged a \$4 billion U.S. contribution to the World Bank's International Development Association fund for the world's poorest countries, a senior Biden administration official said on Monday. Biden announced the three-year U.S. pledge during a closed session of the Group of 20 summit in Rio de Janeiro, the official told reporters, adding that the U.S. Treasury was leading negotiations at the World Bank for the IDA replenishment.....”

## G20 Social launches a global call for inclusion, democracy, and governance reforms

<https://www.g20.org/en/news/g20-social-launches-a-global-call-for-inclusion-democracy-and-governance-reforms>

Coverage of the **G20 Social Summit**, which took place just before the Leaders summit.

**“The Rio de Janeiro Declaration, emerging from the G20 Social, amplifies the demands of social movements for global justice, the fight against hunger and climate change, and the urgent reform of international governance. The event concluded on Saturday, ahead of the leaders' meeting..”**

And some related links: [G20 Social: Brasil guides new global agenda against hunger](#)

**“Brasil proposes the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, discussed at the G20 Social, to unite countries in sustainable food production, combating inequalities, and eradicating global hunger. “**

- [G20 Brasil innovates with collaborative communication: The voice of the people at the center of the global narrative](#)

**“Civil society, social movements, indigenous peoples, and young people now shape the official narrative of the G20 through their experiences and viewpoints. This collaborative communication expanded the scope of discussions around Brasil's priorities for the G20: addressing inequality, combating climate change, and reforming global governance.”**

## WHO and partners rally cervical cancer elimination efforts

<https://www.who.int/news/item/17-11-2024-who-and-partners-rally-cervical-cancer-elimination-efforts>

From last weekend.

**“As world leaders arrive in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the G20 Summit this weekend, the city’s iconic Christ the Redeemer statue will be illuminated in the colour teal. The Brazilian advocates behind this effort are among many around the globe joining the World Health Organization (WHO) to mobilize efforts on a worldwide “Day of Action for Cervical Cancer Elimination.” Other countries are marking the day with campaigns to provide human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination and screening, launching new health policies to align with the world’s first-ever effort to eliminate a cancer, and raising awareness in communities.....”**

- Related op-ed by dr Tedros: [For the first time, the elimination of a cancer is within our reach](#)

**“On today’s Global Day of Action for Cervical Cancer Elimination, we urge all leaders, all sectors and all communities to join us in ending cervical cancer once and for all.”**

- Related: WB ('Investing in Health' blog) - [Preventing cervical cancer in Africa: Why scaling HPV vaccination is a priority](#)

## UN News - New UN initiative aims to counter climate disinformation

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/11/1157191>

“As the dangers posed by climate change become increasingly evident worldwide, the need for reliable and accurate information on the impact of the environmental crisis is more crucial than ever. To address this, the **United Nations, together with the Organization’s education and science agency, UNESCO and the Brazilian government, launched the Global Initiative for Information Integrity on Climate Change** on Tuesday. The joint effort [announced](#) at the G20 Leaders’ Summit in Brazil aims to **strengthen research and measures to address all disinformation which has the effect of delaying or derailing climate action.....”**

## HPW - WHO Chief ‘Back to Work’ After Hospital Stay During Rio G20

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/who-chief-back-to-work-after-hospital-stay-at-rio-g20/>

“**The director-general of the World Health Organization, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, is “back to work” following an overnight stay in a Rio hospital during his trip to the G20 summit**, the WHO chief said Thursday. The reason for the hospital visit, first reported by the [Brazilian paper O Globo](#), was not disclosed in a statement by the hospital, although media reports cited symptoms of hypertension and labyrinthitis (inner ear infection causing vertigo) as causes for the hospitalization.....”

## BMJ Opinion - Brazil’s G20 leadership offers glimmers of hope for global health equity

D Ventura, A-E Birn et al ; <https://www.bmj.com/content/387/bmj.q2517>

Analysis of the **Health Ministers meeting** end of October. “**The Rio de Janeiro declarations chart possibilities in an era of inequity, war, climate change, and pandemics, but their shortfalls must be acknowledged**, write Deisy Ventura and colleagues.”

“**On 31 October 2024, the G20 health ministers met in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, following a series of preparatory meetings held throughout 2024. A recent series in The BMJ suggested priorities for Brazil’s G20 leadership. **Brazil is taking this opportunity to advance global health diplomacy, but its leadership will need to go beyond formal declarations to address health inequity from a global south perspective.”**

“The Rio meeting produced two unanimously adopted declarations.....”

PS: “**The current G20 health meeting’s silence on war is a major shortfall. ....”**

PS: “**Meanwhile, the G20’s focus on vaccines and other technologies, while serving an essential role, remains insufficient. Pharmaceuticals and epidemiological surveillance are not magic bullets;**

**they must be grounded in social justice approaches** to ensure that they do not reproduce inequalities, especially during pandemics. **Health governance models that incorporate universal social protections and social participation, such as Brazil’s universal healthcare system (SUS), are thus crucial for effective health emergency responses**; governments should certainly should not assume that community initiatives will fill the gaps. **States must resume their responsibility for, and responsiveness to, meeting social needs of marginalised communities and throughout their jurisdictions. If these roles are left to philanthropic players, inequity will only deepen.”**

“With next year’s G20 health summit again hosted in the global south, we are cautiously hopeful that its leadership can move beyond formal declarations to tackle global health inequities at their core.”

## **BMJ Editorial – G20 and the global south: opportunities for global health**

M de Lourdes, J Hanefeld et al ; <https://www.bmj.com/content/387/bmj.q2536>

« **Leadership by southern countries is focusing attention on health equity.** »

PS: (next year), “ **Brazil and South Africa have three key opportunities** to work together to strengthen their presence in global health leadership and to propose a new framing of the global health landscape based on equity within and between countries.....”

## **More on Global Health Governance**

### **BMJ Opinion - Trump 2.0: what implications for global health?**

K Buse & M McKee; <https://www.bmj.com/content/387/bmj.q2607>

“The second Trump presidency will be disruptive for global health, so **threats must be anticipated and opportunities seized** argue Kent Buse and Martin McKee.” *(Recommended)*

### **GHF - Global Health Insecurity in a Second Trump Term [Guest Essay]**

L Gostin; [Geneva Health Files](#)

Listing **six areas of global health that will be severely disrupted** by a second Trump term.

### **Croakey - Five ways the global health community can respond to a Trump Administration**

Melissa Sweet et al; <https://www.croakey.org/five-ways-the-global-health-community-can-respond-to-a-trump-administration/>

“President-elect Donald Trump’s appointment of multi-billionaire Elon Musk to slash United States government spending and regulation is a harbinger of what lies ahead, especially given the role of

Musk's company X in disseminating disinformation and exerting political power. **At a time when many in the health community are fearing the worst, it's important to take stock and plot a strategic course forward, writes Veronica Le Nevez, Head of Impact and Engagement at The George Institute for Global Health.**" Read what they suggest.

## **Devex - What will the first African G20 presidency look like?**

<https://www.devex.com/news/what-will-the-first-african-g20-presidency-look-like-108817>

(gated) **"South Africa's G20 presidency marks a historic first. Here's what we know about the country's priorities so far."**

**"As the G20 summit came to an end on Tuesday, South Africa became the first African nation to assume the presidency of the Group of 20 major economies — a year-long term that will officially begin on Dec. 1, 2024. "We will use this moment to bring the development priorities of the African continent and the global south more firmly onto the agenda of the G20,"** said South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, after the head of the G20's current presidency, Brazil's Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, symbolically handed over the role in Rio de Janeiro."

**"Ramaphosa then announced South Africa's G20 theme: solidarity, equality and sustainability. Beneath that umbrella, the country will prioritize inclusive economic growth, food security, and artificial intelligence, he added — not just through the G20 summit, but through 130 meetings in South Africa throughout next year. ...."**

## **Lancet Child & Adolescent Health (Comment )- Children are not future producers and customers: a plea for the moral imperative of acting now**

M Tomlinson et al; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(24\)00312-2/abstract?dgcid=tlcom\\_carousel3\\_whod\\_comment24\\_lanchi](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(24)00312-2/abstract?dgcid=tlcom_carousel3_whod_comment24_lanchi)

**« In 2017, The World Bank launched the flagship [Human Capital Project](#), followed by the first Human Capital Index in 2018. The project was a global effort to accelerate investments in people to improve equity and economic growth. Although The World Bank did not invent the term human capital, they firmly inserted the term into the global health communication architecture. The Human Capital Project aims to design and implement multisectoral initiatives that build human capital across the life course. A key argument underlying the use of the term human capital was that if governments were to be convinced of the value of investing in people, including in children and adolescents, then that case had to use the language of business and capital to appeal to ministries of finance in particular. As of early 2024, the Human Capital Project had grown to a network of 94 governments. Alongside this growth, the use of the language of economics and business has also increased when making the argument for interventions to improve the wellbeing of children (eg, return on investment, cost-effectiveness, cost of inaction, cost–benefit analysis, and children as future customers)....."**

## More on Global health Financing/Global tax justice & the debt crisis

### Development Today - UNFPA braces for Trump II, scant hope for increased European funding this time

<https://www.development-today.com/archive/2024/dt-8--2024/unfpa-braces-for-trump-ii-scant-hope-for-increased-european-funding>

(gated) “Europe - led by Nordic donors - increased support for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) by 20 per cent to compensate for cuts in US funding for sexual and reproductive health during the first Trump administration. Few believe this will happen again during Trump II.”

### New coalition seeks to close global NCD healthcare financing gap

<https://finance.yahoo.com/news/coalition-seeks-close-global-ncd-131411834.html>

From last week. “Noncommunicable disease (NCD) prevention initiative Access Accelerated and the World Bank have entered into a technical partnership seeking to improve financing for NCDs care in low- and middle-income countries. The partnership will work alongside Results for Development (R4D) to establish the Financing Accelerator Network for NCDs (FAN) – a coalition of organisations that will bridge healthcare gaps through regionally hosted NCD financing accelerators.”

“FAN will be comprised of global and local organisations, that will address financial inequalities by supporting and guiding governments and local stakeholders. Informed by the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.... FAN will prioritise plans to build resilient health financing systems, advance universal health coverage and develop strong primary healthcare systems....”

“FAN will provide support across regions including Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific. R4D will act as a network manager to provide regional expertise, on-demand technical support, cross-country learning opportunities and catalytic seed funding to programmes aimed at improving NCD financing and health outcomes.....” “The first regional NCD Financing Accelerator will be hosted by the African Institute for Development Policy (AFIDEP) to better meet the needs of Sub-Saharan Africa, which has seen the fastest-growing rates of NCD incidence and mortality in recent years.

### Wemos - The cost of austerity: Wemos’ study assesses the impact of the IMF programme in Zambia

<https://www.wemos.org/en/the-cost-of-austerity-wemos-study-assesses-the-impact-of-the-imf-programme-in-zambia/>

“The International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) loan conditionalities imposed on Zambia create significant barriers to accessing quality healthcare. While aimed at fiscal stability, these conditionalities have introduced austerity measures that exacerbated inflation, deepened poverty and strained Zambia’s

public health system. These are the **main findings of the study ‘The cost of austerity: The toll of IMF conditionalities on access to health in Zambia’ .....**”

## **Tax Justice Network - World losing half a trillion to tax abuse, largely due to 8 countries blocking UN tax reform, annual report finds**

<https://taxjustice.net/press/world-losing-half-a-trillion-to-tax-abuse-largely-due-to-8-countries-blocking-un-tax-reform-annual-report-finds/>

“Countries are losing US\$492 billion in tax a year to multinational corporations and wealthy individuals using tax havens to underpay tax. Nearly half the losses (43%) are enabled by the eight countries that remain opposed to a UN tax convention: Australia, Canada, Israel, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, the UK and the US.”

“Biggest enablers of global tax abuse are also some of the biggest losers: US\$177 billion lost by the 8 countries that recently voted against UN tax convention terms; US\$189 billion lost by 44 abstainers; US\$123 billion lost by 110 countries voting for. **Multinational corporations are shifting more profit into tax havens and underpaying more on tax, evidencing failure of OECD’s tax reform attempts. Multinational corporations cheated more after tax rate cuts, disproving “tax appeasement” thinking popular with lobbyists and some politicians. Offshore tax evasion by wealthy individuals dropped, but by far less than claimed. Majority of wealth offshore still hidden from tax authorities.**”

- Related link: [Joint statement: It’s time for the OECD to walk the talk on human rights \(joint civil society statement\)](#) via Luke Holland (Tax Justice Network)

“The UN General Assembly is **expected to approve** the terms of reference for negotiation of a **Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation (UNFCITC) in November**. This will be the latest milestone in an historic initiative to shift global standard setting on tax cooperation from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which only represents the interests of the 38 most industrialized nations, to the UN, where all countries have a voice. **As a civil society collective working towards social, economic, racial and climate justice, we call on the OECD to support the UN process** and to provide a meaningful response to the concerns raised by both UN experts and civil society that its proposed ‘two-pillar solution’ to cross border tax abuse would prejudice human rights in developing countries.”

## **COP 29 Interim Progress report on Global Solidarity Levies**

<https://globalsolidaritylevies.org/app/uploads/2024/11/GSLTF-Scaling-Solidarity-Progress-on-Global-Solidarity-Levies-report.pdf>

By the **Global Solidarity Levies Taskforce**.

Detailing the potential of international levies on the most polluting sectors. For a quick overview, see p. 10-12. Go for it!



## Project Syndicate - How Global Public Investment Should Work

M Mazzucato & J Glennie; [Project Syndicate](#);

### Linking the GPI- and mission-based approaches.

**“Addressing problems like climate change and biodiversity loss calls for new thinking about how to mobilize the huge volume of financing that will be needed.** International cooperation must be re-framed as a collective endeavor in which all countries benefit, contribute, and make investment decisions together.”

**“... The existing financial architecture is not up to the task of providing the necessary climate and biodiversity finance,** which will reach an estimated \$2.4 trillion each year by 2030.”

**“... A GPI- and missioned-based approach can change this dynamic. ...”** Read how.

## UHC

### BMJ GH - Approaches, enablers and barriers to govern the private sector in health in low- and middle-income countries: a scoping review

C Goodman, S Witter, D Clarke et al; [https://gh.bmj.com/content/8/Suppl\\_5/e015771?s=09](https://gh.bmj.com/content/8/Suppl_5/e015771?s=09)

**“This paper reports on a scoping review,** which synthesised evidence on the approaches used to govern private sector delivery and financing of healthcare in LMICs, the effectiveness of these approaches and the key enablers and barriers to strengthening governance.....”

## Pandemic agreement negotiations

With another INB meeting scheduled early December.

### HPW –Amid ‘Huge’ Geopolitical Pressures, Pandemic Talks Co-Chair Hopes for December Deal

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/amid-huge-geopolitical-pressures-pandemic-talks-co-chair-hopes-for-december-deal/>

Very nice state of affairs. (recommended read)

**“Warning that the process of negotiating a pandemic agreement has days not months left, talks co-chair Precious Matsoso hopes that a deal will finally be clinched at the next meeting of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body (INB) in early December.** “We don’t have six months left to finish negotiations. We only have a couple of days left, precisely because the geopolitical environment is so challenging. There is huge, huge pressure on the talks and we don’t know what

the outcome will be,” said Matsoso. **The cloud hanging over the talks is the likelihood of US President-elect Donald Trump pulling his country out of the World Health Organization (WHO), which is coordinating the talks. This could set off a chain reaction from other conservative states that torpedoed the remaining goodwill.”**

**“The talks resume on 2 December and run until 6 December with a crammed agenda dedicated to the most contentious issues.”**

...Recalling that the negotiations started a day after Russia invaded Ukraine, **Matsoso said she was reflecting on 1000 days of work, which started with a blank page.** ... The **draft agreement has been built around five areas: prevention, equity measures, health systems, financing and governance.** The [Latest Draft Pandemic Agreement \(15 November at 17.14 CET\)](#) shows that much of the text has been agreed on (highlighted in green) or mostly agreed (yellow)....”

**“...The two dominant negotiating blocks – represented by the Africa Group and the European Union-US – are deadlocked over Articles 4 and 5 (Prevention and One Health) and Article 12 (the Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing system, PABS)....”**

PS: **“In some cases, a handful of words and phrases obstruct agreement.** ... .. Some outstanding clauses can simply be resolved if negotiators agree on definitions, said Matsoso....”

PS: **“...she notes, there is agreement on five major areas (give or take the odd phrase) – health system resilience (Article 5), health and care workforce (Article 6), R&D (Article 9), geographically diverse local production (Article 10) and regulatory systems strengthening (14)....”**

## Bird flu

**Stat - H5N1 bird flu virus in Canadian teenager displays mutations demonstrating virus' risk**

<https://www.statnews.com/2024/11/18/bird-flu-pandemic-h5n1-virus-mutations-canada-genomic-analysis/>

**“The virus, which appears not to have spread to anyone else, underwent mutational changes virologists didn't want to see.”**

**NYT op-ed – The World Is Watching the U.S. Deal With Bird Flu, and It's Scary**

Tulio de Oliveira ; [https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/19/opinion/bird-flu-disease-outbreak.html?unlocked\\_article\\_code=1.bE4.EcmJ.OT9UfGB1Fr4z&smid=url-share](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/19/opinion/bird-flu-disease-outbreak.html?unlocked_article_code=1.bE4.EcmJ.OT9UfGB1Fr4z&smid=url-share)

Quotes: **“...Beyond the risks to its own citizens (there are over 45 cases of people in the United States getting the virus in 2024), the United States should remember that the country where a pandemic emerges can be accused of not doing enough to control it. We still hear how China did not do enough to stop the Covid-19 pandemic. None of us would want a new pandemic labeled the “American virus,” as this could be very damaging for the United States' reputation and economy.” ...”**

“The United States should learn from how the global south responds to infectious diseases. Those of us working in the region have a good track record of responding to epidemics and emerging pandemics, and can help the United States identify new virus strains and offer insights into how to control H5N1. ...”

## Marburg outbreak Rwanda

- Via **Pandemic Action Playbook**: [Bright spot — Marburg countdown optimism](#)

“Rwanda’s Nov. 15 weekly update shared that the country was [14 days without a new Marburg case in the 42-day countdown](#). ....”

- Via [Politico](#): **“Rwanda's swift response to its Marburg virus outbreak is setting new standards for how developing countries can tackle deadly pathogens.**

“The small African country has earned praise for how well it responded to and contained the outbreak of the fatal Ebola-like virus, which has [killed 15 people](#) and infected at least 66. **Rwanda started testing an experimental vaccine against the virus a little more than a week after the outbreak was officially declared. How so:** The Washington-based Sabin Vaccine Institute, a nonprofit developing the vaccine with funding from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, sent 2,700 doses to Rwanda for testing in health care professionals at risk of getting the virus and miners who could encounter bats harboring Marburg. **To deliver the shots to Rwanda within 10 days of the outbreak declaration, multiple work processes that typically occur sequentially had to be performed simultaneously,** Amy Finan, Sabin’s CEO, said. “We had work streams around clinical operations, clinical protocol, legal and business issues that had to be taken care of, as well as epidemiological and then communications, obviously,” she told Carmen. **The Rwandan government, Sabin, BARDA and other organizations involved in the vaccine delivery and testing had worked together before, which made cooperation seamless,** she added.”

**“Why it matters: Sabin’s cooperation with Rwandan authorities offers a blueprint for rapidly delivering and deploying vaccines during an outbreak of a deadly pathogen in a developing country.** Health experts see vaccine delivery and use, along with isolating patients and tracing and monitoring their contacts, as crucial for saving lives and **containing** disease spread.....”

### NEJM - Fight or Flight — Facing the Marburg Outbreak in Rwanda

J P Sibomana; [NEJM](#)

A viewpoint from the frontline.

## Mpox emergency response

Cidrap News - WHO extends public health emergency for mpox

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/mpox/who-extends-public-health-emergency-mpox>

(22 Nov) “Following a **meeting today of the World Health Organization (WHO) mpox emergency committee**, the head of the WHO accepted the group’s recommendation that the **outbreaks still warrant a public health emergency of international concern (PHEIC) under the International Health Regulations.**”

- For more, see [WHO - \*\*Second meeting of the International Health Regulations \(2005\) \(IHR\) Emergency Committee on the mpox upsurge\*\*](#)

“... The WHO Director-General, agreeing with the advice of the IHR Emergency Committee, has determined that the upsurge of mpox continues to constitute a public health emergency of international concern. The **decision was based on the rising number and continuing geographic spread of cases, operational challenges in the field, and the need to mount and sustain a cohesive response across countries and partners....**”

### Reuters - WHO lists mpox vaccine by Japan's KM Biologics for emergency use

[Reuters](#);

“The World Health Organization listed KM Biologics' mpox vaccine for emergency use on Tuesday, making it the second shot to get the approval of the global health agency. ... The Government of Japan will donate 3.05 million doses of the vaccine, along with certain specialized needles, to Congo, the WHO said....”

### Science - ‘I’m really shocked.’ Children not being vaccinated for mpox in Congo

<https://www.science.org/content/article/i-m-really-shocked-children-not-being-vaccinated-mpox-congo>

“**Regulatory and liability issues are delaying immunization of the most vulnerable group.**” Some excerpts:

“... When children get mpox, they are more likely than adults to become severely ill and die. But **despite their vulnerability, children are not eligible for the vaccines now being rolled out for the first time in the DRC. Instead, the vaccination campaign targets sex workers and their clients, health care workers, and people who have been in contact with cases.** “I’m really shocked that children are not yet vaccinated,” says a Congolese health care worker who asked not to be named because of political sensitivities. **A growing number of local physicians and international agencies agree and have urged the DRC to change course. But the government has moved slowly, apparently because of regulatory questions, concerns about liability, and bureaucracy....**”

This concerns the **modified vaccinia Ankara (MVA) manufactured by Bavarian Nordic.**

PS: “... On 12 November, the European Medicines Agency said that given the safety data and the “limited options” to prevent pediatric mpox, MVA could be used in children of any age. WHO supports use in children as well. In a [policy recommendation](#) issued in August, it said the vaccine could be used “off label” in virtually all age groups during outbreaks, and on 18 October WHO granted MVA [“prequalification”](#)—a seal of approval—for the 12–17 age bracket. Without vaccinating children, “the impact of any control measures will be greatly mitigated,” WHO said in a statement to

*Science*. In the DRC, a technical advisory group to the health ministry suggested earlier this year that MVA could be used in children.....”

PS: “.... The Japanese government has offered just over 3 million doses of a vaccine similar to MVA called LC16m8, which WHO [greenlighted](#) on 19 November. But the doses haven’t arrived. *Science* has learned Japan does not want to accept liability should the vaccine cause harm.....”

- Meanwhile, via **Pandemic Action Playbook**: [Mpox — not slowing down](#)

“...While some countries continue to report no new cases, mpox continues to spread throughout the continent as we near the [100-day mark](#) since WHO’s designation of the outbreak as a [Public Health Emergency of International Concern](#) (PHEIC). Notably, **Uganda is experiencing a rise in cases**, which have surged over 200% in the past six weeks. Get the latest figures, insights, and actions in the [PAN Mpox Insights & Actions: Making Sense of Mpox Trackers’ Nov. 19 update](#).....”

## Reuters - Nigeria begins delayed mpox vaccination programme

[Reuters](#);

“**Nigeria started mpox vaccinations on Monday**, administering shots to health workers and people with weak immune systems at hospitals in the capital Abuja, **more than a month after the programme was scheduled to start**. ..... Nigeria, one of the African countries where mpox is endemic, has **recorded 94 confirmed cases and no deaths since the start of this year**, the WHO said in a report last month....”

“**At the Federal Medical Centre in Abuja, health workers wearing gloves and masks administered mpox shots to 30 people, marking the start of the vaccination campaign**. "It is not a mass vaccination but **target-ringed vaccination for health care workers and immuno-compromised persons, that is, people living with HIV**," Hafsat Abdullazeez from the Institute of Human Virology in Abuja told Reuters.....”

## Undark - Frontline Mpox Responders Aren’t Getting the Support They Need

<https://undark.org/2024/11/14/opinion-mpox-frontline-donations/>

“**More donations should go directly to local organizations in Africa** to prevent mpox from becoming the next pandemic.” Cfr **DRC based NGOs**.

## AMR

## UN News - Jeddah conference closes with adoption of global pledges to tackle antimicrobial resistance

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/11/1157091>

**“The 4th Global High-Level Ministerial Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) wrapped up [last week] on Saturday with the adoption of the Jeddah Commitments, which lay out practical, actionable and cross-sectoral steps stakeholders can take to address this complex health issue.....”**

**“... The commitments highlight the role of the Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR, which is comprised of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Organization for Animal Health (WOAH). They also call for the creation of a new ‘biotech bridge’ aimed at boosting research, development and innovation to find solutions to the global threat. “**

**“Minister Al-Jalajel announced the establishment of an AMR ‘One Health’ Learning Hub and a regional Antimicrobial Access and Logistics Hub in Saudi Arabia to foster global collaboration and improve access to essential antimicrobials and diagnostics. .... Stakeholders were eager to build on the global political momentum and rally behind the fight against AMR. Just as the conference ended, they met in parallel at the Ritz-Carlton in Jeddah for the second plenary assembly of the [ARM Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Platform](#) to chart a way forward and turn the fresh commitments into practical reality. The platform is one of the three governance structures established by the [Quadripartite Joint Secretariat on AMR](#) and hosted by [FAO](#). It brings together 250 members “from the very grassroots level to the global level.”....”**

- See also [HPW – Jeddah Conference Announces More Measures to Combat AMR – But Implementation Plans Are Still Vague](#)

**“Government leaders from the health, environment and agriculture sectors in 57 countries adopted a 14-point plan to tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR) at a meeting in Saudi Arabia that ended over the weekend. “**

**“ One of the undertakings of the [Jeddah Commitment](#) is support for the establishment of an independent panel to collect evidence about AMR. ... The ministerial conference resolved to support the Quad in a “timely, open and transparent process” to set up “an Independent Panel for Evidence on Action Against AMR”. However further details, including which UN agency should host the panel and its terms of reference, have not yet been resolved. The UK is believed to favour UNEP hosting the panel while other countries believe that the WHO is better equipped to do so as the global health body houses the Quad.....”**

## **The Bureau of Investigative Journalism - Gaza bombardment worsens superbug outbreaks**

<https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/stories/2024-11-19/gaza-bombardment-worsens-superbug-outbreaks/>

**“Israeli blockades and bombings have left doctors without basic medicines to treat infections.”**

**“There is a growing and dire public health crisis taking place in Gaza. Israeli blockades and hospital bombings are fuelling a superbug emergency, with civilians who survive starvation and injury later facing untreatable, life-threatening infections. (MSF) Doctors on the ground told the Bureau of Investigative Journalism (TBIJ) they were treating wounds infested with maggots and using vinegar to fight infections.....”**

## COP 29 Baku: Focus on climate funding

As we approached our self-imposed deadline today, COP 29 hadn't finished yet. Some updates below, and also more coverage and analysis (including reports) from earlier this week. **First with overall analysis, then focusing more on climate & health.**

### Climate Home News -COP29 Bulletin Day 11: Global South slams proposal for \$250bn climate finance goal

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/11/22/cop29-bulletin-day-11-no-finance-deal-better-than-bad-deal-campaigners-say/>

Update as of yesterday evening. **“The latest text suggests a rich government-led finance goal of \$250 billion a year by 2035, which the African Group called “totally unacceptable”.**” Excerpts:

**“The new public finance target – which would replace the existing \$100-billion-a-year goal – would contribute to a wider goal of at least \$1.3 trillion a year by 2035 “from all public and private sources”, the text says. Developing countries had called for an overall goal of around that size, but wanted \$600 billion of it to be public money with the rest consisting of private investments mobilised by government cash. They also wanted a larger share to be provided as grants.”**

**“Leading economists Amar Bhattacharya, Vera Songwe and Nicholas Stern, who are co-chairs of the Independent High-Level Expert Group on Climate Finance, said the \$1.3 trillion is in line with their analysis of needs for developing countries excluding China. But they said the \$250-billion core figure “is too low and not consistent with delivery of the Paris Agreement”. The NCQG should commit developed countries to provide “at least \$300 billion per year by 2030, and \$390 billion per year by 2035”, they added, calling those higher targets “feasible”. Reaching those amounts would require stepped-up direct bilateral finance from developed countries, much higher ambition on the part of the multilateral development banks, and improved private finance mobilisation, the economists noted in a statement.”**

**“... On the thorny question of who should pay towards the new goal, the draft text says developed countries would take the lead and “invites” developing countries “to make additional contributions” which would be “to or supplementing” the core goal. It “affirms” that any contributions would not affect whether a country is “developed” or “developing”, or whether it can receive climate finance.....”**

**PS: “While an earlier draft text said 20% of the finance under the goal should be provided through the UNFCCC’s multilateral climate funds – like the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund and the loss and damage fund – the new version weakens that to just a “significant amount”. Currently, less than 5% of funds go through these entities. Developing countries prefer to receive funding through these entities as the conditions are usually better than those offered by multilateral development banks and rich governments’ aid agencies. They also have a degree of control over how the GCF runs, with half the seats on its board. ....”**

## Guardian - Developing countries urged to reject 'bad deal' as Cop29 climate talks falter

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/22/developing-countries-told-to-reject-bad-deal-as-cop29-talks-falter>

Also an update from yesterday (Friday) evening. **“Talk grows of a walkout from poor countries in response to ‘unacceptable’ and ‘insulting’ finance proposal.”**

**“The Global Campaign to Demand Climate Justice said there were growing calls for a walkout, and that “no deal is better than a bad deal”, as the [Cop29](#) UN climate summit dragged on through Friday night. ...”**

Also for the **African Group**, it's deemed **‘totally unacceptable’**.

## HPW - With Hours Left, UN Climate Talks Risk Collapse

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/with-hours-left-un-climate-talks-risk-collapse/>

Analysis as of Friday evening. **“With only hours remaining on the clock at UN climate negotiations in Baku, talks are at risk of collapse as nations remain divided over where to find the money developing countries need to respond to the crisis.”**

**“... Following last year’s landmark deal in Dubai to “transition away” from fossil fuels, the climate fight has shifted to securing the money to make that global transition possible. Independent economists told negotiators this week that developing nations need at least \$1.3 trillion per year to adapt to climate impacts and fund recovery efforts. Civil society groups pushed for a higher floor, demanding up to \$5 trillion annually during the Baku talks.”**

**“As hopes rose ahead of the Friday deadline that countries would move towards compromise, negotiations instead began backsliding on Thursday when Azerbaijan, the summit’s host and president, released a decision text that failed to bridge the divide between wealthy and developing nations. ...The Azerbaijani presidency’s core task of finding common ground appeared to falter as the text presented two opposing positions that had been clear since the talks began: developing nations demanding trillions per year in public grants, and wealthy nations offering hundreds of billions, insisting private investment and carbon markets must count toward the total....”**

**“...The new text also sidesteps another contentious issue: which countries have a responsibility to pay for climate finance. A section in the Baku text proposing to expand the list of donor countries – targeting wealthy nations like Singapore, China, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, and the UAE – has been quietly dropped....”**

## Bloomberg - The 1.5C Climate Goal Is Dead. Why Is COP29 Still Talking About It?

[Bloomberg](#)

**“Politicians and green advocates want to keep the focus on limiting global warming to 1.5C, even though scientists say the planet is already on track to soon breach the target.”**



“The battle to keep global warming within [1.5 degrees Celsius](#) has been a rallying cry for climate action for nearly a decade. Now, with the planet [almost certain to blow past](#) the target, diplomats and campaigners at the COP29 summit have found themselves awkwardly clinging to a goal that no longer makes sense. .... **...The big problem, climate science and policy experts say, is that no one knows what goal to embrace next. Should it be 1.6C, or 1.7C, or even higher? What is realistic but also still motivating? Should a new goal even be another temperature target or something else?”**

PS: “Next year’s [COP30 meeting in Brazil](#) will be a true test of the resilience of 1.5C as a North Star for global climate action. Countries are **expected to turn up having set new emissions-cutting targets up to 2035**. That means some of the world’s biggest polluters, including the US and China, will have to significantly step up their current climate ambition.....”

- See also [the Guardian – World’s 1.5C climate target ‘deader than a doornail’, experts say](#)

### Guardian - China and India should not be called developing countries, several Cop29 delegates say

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/19/china-india-developing-countries-cop29-climate-talks>

“Delegates from poorer nations say classifications that date back to 1992 are obsolete and two countries ‘should be contributing’.” Yep, yep and yep.

“China and India should no longer be treated as developing countries in the same way as some of the poorest African nations are, according to a growing number of delegates from poorer country at the [Cop29 UN climate talks](#). China should take on some additional responsibility for providing financial help to the poorest and most vulnerable, several delegates told the Guardian. [India](#) should not be eligible for receiving financial help as it has no trouble attracting investment, some said....”

PS: “China and India are regarded as developing countries at the [Cop29](#) climate talks, using classifications that date back to 1992 when the UN framework convention on climate change (UNFCCC) was signed. That means they have no formal obligation to cut their greenhouse gas emissions or to provide financial help to poorer countries, and technically are eligible to receive climate aid, though China chooses not to do so.....”

PS: totally agree for China (and the oil states in the Middle East). Not yet for India.

- See also Devex - [Is it time for India to step up as a climate donor?](#)

“Developed nations want India, China, and Middle Eastern countries included on the climate donor list, arguing that global climate goals can only be achieved if major emitters and economic powers share the burden.”

### Guardian - Cop29 delegates told to ‘cut the theatrics’ and tackle climate crisis

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/18/cop29-delegates-told-to-cut-the-theatrics-and-tackle-climate-crisis>

From earlier this week. “UN climate chief addresses climate summit with no agreement in sight on how to help developing countries.”

**PS: “... Australia’s climate and energy minister, Chris Bowen, is charged with guiding the finance track of the talks. He and Yasmine Fouad of Egypt are the “ministerial pairing” in charge of the “new collective quantified goal” (NCQG) negotiations.”**

“Bowen told the Guardian **the process was like “a four-dimensional jigsaw”**. The NCQG must include **numbers, on the amount of finance developing countries can expect and where it should come from**, including developed countries’ aid budgets, development banks such as the World Bank, and the private sector. **The structure of an agreement is also key, including deadlines for meeting the goals, and rules on which countries can access the funding and how**. These factors were “intrinsicly linked, so you can’t solve one without the other”, he told the Guardian. **“Those four things – the big three plus accessibility – is a jigsaw puzzle**. A four-dimensional jigsaw puzzle being constructed on a tight timeline, with 198 parties,” Bowen said....”

### **Guardian - Poor nations may have to downgrade climate cash demands, ex-UN envoy says**

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/21/poor-nations-climate-cash-ex-un-envoy-mary-robinson-cop29>

From earlier this week. **“Rich country budgets are stretched amid inflation, Covid and Ukraine war**, Mary Robinson tells Cop29.”

**“... The summit is focused on finding \$1tn (£790bn) a year for poor nations to shift to a low-CO2 economy and cope with the impacts of extreme weather. ....But the rich world is expected to offer only about \$300bn a year at most in public finance, far less than many developing countries hoped for**. The developed world is likely to argue that the remainder of the \$1tn can be made up from other sources, including private sector investment, carbon trading and potential new sources such as taxes on fossil fuels.”

**“Robinson said \$300bn should be “a minimum” and developed countries must also take steps to ensure that poor countries can access private sector finance and loans much more cheaply than at present, by “de-risking” finance for them. ....Many poor countries are asking for a much higher proportion of the \$1tn to come from rich country’s budgets, rather than from the private sector or new taxes. The least developed countries bloc, for instance, said they wanted \$900bn of the total to come from public finance....”**

**“...Robinson also said that China and other major economies still classed as developing must also pay towards climate finance. “It’s also the responsibility of the rich so-called developing countries [such as] China to take their responsibility properly. ....”**

**“... Rich countries must also fulfil their responsibilities by agreeing deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions**, Robinson said. Only by doing so, as well as providing clear guarantees they will deliver the cash they promise, could they rebuild trust with the poor world, she said. .... **Relations between rich and poor nations were also strained, she said. “The trust is very fragile at the moment. There’s an anger, because the impacts of climate are much worse in the developing world,” she said. “The impact in poor countries is so devastating.” ....”**

## Guardian - 'It is feasible': climate finance won't burden rich countries, say economists

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/19/it-is-feasible-climate-finance-wont-burden-rich-countries-say-economists>

**"Experts say mix of taxes with development bank and private funding can provide \$1tn a year needed by 2030."**

## Guardian - US and India lead G20 on climate action, report says

[https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/21/us-and-india-lead-g20-on-climate-action-report-says?CMP=share\\_btn\\_url](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/21/us-and-india-lead-g20-on-climate-action-report-says?CMP=share_btn_url)

**"Exclusive: world's biggest emitters making most progress in introducing policies, study shows, but emissions still set to rise by 2.7C."**

**"The United States and India have made the greatest progress among the world's top 20 economies in implementing climate policies since the 2016 Paris Agreement, a study commissioned by the Guardian has found.... Over the past nine years, the G20 group of the world's biggest economies have together introduced policies that are likely to reduce CO2 discharges by 6.9 gigatons by 2030, the report by Climate Action Tracker shows...."** " Although this is not enough to keep global heating within the Paris target of 1.5C to 2C above preindustrial levels, **the authors of the study say it is a substantial improvement on what was forecast in 2015, showing the Cop process – despite its many flaws – has had some effect** in reducing the climate dangers facing the world...."

## Climate Change News - Coalition against fossil fuel subsidies expands but misses initial targets

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2024/11/19/coalition-against-fossil-fuel-subsidies-expands-but-misses-initial-targets/>

**"The UK, Colombia and New Zealand have joined an alliance of governments planning to scrap their fossil fuel subsidies."**

" The UK, Colombia and New Zealand have signed on to a coalition of governments aiming to phase out fossil fuel subsidies, **joining 13 other mainly European nations in the alliance.** Vance Culbert, the manager of the coalition's secretariat from the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD), told Climate Home at COP29 in Baku that **half a dozen more countries – including "a few larger economy developing countries" are talking privately to them about joining too.** The coalition, launched a year ago at COP28 in Dubai, aims to **address international barriers to phasing out subsidies, such as global restrictions on taxation of aviation and shipping fuels...."**

## HPW - Health Secures Permanent Spot on COP Agenda – But Little Else

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/health-secures-permanent-spot-on-cop-agenda-but-little-else/>

Must-read (and somewhat gloomy) analysis.

**“The World Health Organization’s marquee event at COP29 in Baku produced a document that captures the growing frustration felt by delegates, civil society, and people across the globe with UN climate negotiations: a “letter of intent” to form a coalition to continue discussions about taking action.** In stark contrast to the glitzy, Bill Gates-adorned fanfare of the inaugural COP Health Day in Dubai a year ago, the WHO-led high-level ministerial on Monday took place in a cramped, windowless meeting room – though, to be fair, the ground floor of Baku’s football stadium, the venue for COP29, has no windows. **Seasoned UN observers sensed the event, billed as a “round table” emphasising “sharing best practices” and “reinforcing sustained action,” was unlikely to make headlines.** While Dubai’s celebration drew VIPs and global attention, this year’s event peaked at **just 18 guest attendees on a Microsoft Teams call** attended by Health Policy Watch.....”

“The meeting resulted in the **“Baku COP Presidencies Continuity Coalition for Climate and Health,”** an acronym sure to catch on at the UN climate talks: **BCPCCCH.....”**

Related:

- [WHO – Baku COP29 advances health-climate commitments with new coalition](#) (press release WHO)

Yes, it’s quite a contrast, this press statement 😊: **“... The United Nations Climate Change Conference Baku (COP29) marked a significant milestone in the global effort to integrate health and climate action.** COP29 is building on commitments made at previous UN Climate Change Conferences (COPs) and pushing forward the agenda to protect health in the face of climate change. At the heart of this progress was a **high-level event, COP Presidencies bringing Health at the Centre of Climate Agenda, hosted by the World Health Organization (WHO), Spain, Azerbaijan and the COP29 Presidency.** Leaders underscored the need for continuity and synergy in climate-health initiatives, with a critical emphasis on translating past pledges into action. **A highlight of the COP29 proceedings was the signing of the Letter of Intent officially establishing of the Baku COP Presidencies Continuity Coalition for Climate and Health.....”**

## **BMJ Opinion - COP29: financing must help communities burdened by climate related harm**

G Gasparri, R Khosla et al ; <https://www.bmj.com/content/387/bmj.q2600>

**“Ambitious financing is needed to build resilience in communities bearing the most severe health consequences of the climate crisis, write Giulia Gasparri and colleagues.”**

**“...Financing has been a critical issue on the agenda of COP29. Amid the discussions, it is imperative that we recognise the co-benefits for climate and health, including for women, children, and adolescents.** People living in the most climate vulnerable communities in low income countries are already bearing the most severe consequences, despite having contributed the least to climate change... ..**As negotiations reach the final stages on agreeing the new collective quantified goal on climate finance at COP29, there is an opportunity to ensure that financing prioritises the health of women, children, and adolescents living in the most affected low and middle income countries....”**

## UNAIDS - Climate emergency risks worsening AIDS epidemic, UN warns at COP29

[https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/november/20241121\\_cop29](https://www.unaids.org/en/resources/presscentre/pressreleaseandstatementarchive/2024/november/20241121_cop29)

***“Countries facing “triple funding crisis” of insufficient climate finance, insufficient HIV funding, and crippling debt.”***

“The climate crisis could disrupt HIV services and lead to increasing HIV risk for some of the most vulnerable populations, the **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have warned** at the COP29 Climate Conference in Baku, Azerbaijan. In a **new report**, the UN agencies warn that **eroded public health infrastructure, heightened prevalence of diseases that interact with HIV, food insecurity, water scarcity, and the mass displacement of people – all likely to intensify due to climate change – could drive new HIV infections and lead to more AIDS-related deaths.....”**

## More on Planetary Health

### 'Moment of truth' for world-first plastic pollution treaty

[https://www.yahoo.com/news/moment-truth-world-first-plastic-024815893.html?fr=sycsrp\\_catchall](https://www.yahoo.com/news/moment-truth-world-first-plastic-024815893.html?fr=sycsrp_catchall)

**A look ahead to Busan**, which starts next week. “Plastic pollution litters our seas, our air and even our bodies, but negotiators face an uphill battle **next week to agree on the world's first treaty aimed at ending the problem. Countries will have a week in South Korea's Busan from Monday to round off two years of negotiations.**”

“They **remain deeply divided on** whether the deal should limit plastic production and certain chemicals, and even if the treaty should be adopted by majority vote or consensus.”

“The talks are a “moment of truth”, **UN Environment Programme chief Inger Andersen** warned this month. “Busan can and must mark the end of the negotiations,” she insisted, in a nod to growing speculation that the process could be extended. She acknowledged that serious differences remain, urging “more convergence” on the most difficult areas....”

### Guardian - Climate crisis to blame for dozens of ‘impossible’ heatwaves, studies reveal

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/18/climate-crisis-to-blame-for-dozens-of-impossible-heatwaves-studies-reveal>

**“At least 24 previously impossible heatwaves have struck communities across the planet, a new assessment has shown, providing stark evidence of how severely human-caused global heating is supercharging extreme weather. ...The new database of hundreds of studies that analyse the role of global heating in extreme weather was [compiled by the website Carbon Brief](#) and shared with**

the Guardian. ... The studies have examined **the impacts resulting from about 1.3C of global heating to date**. The prospect of 2.5C to 3.0C, which is where the [world is headed](#), is therefore catastrophic, warn the scientists.....”

### **Guardian - Eight times more children will face extreme heatwaves by 2050s, Unicef says**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/nov/20/children-extreme-heatwaves-2050s-un>

Coverage of the **new State of the World’s Children report** (see also below). “**Eight times as many children around the world will be exposed to extreme heatwaves in the 2050s, and three times as many will face river floods compared with the 2000s if current trends continue, according to the UN**. Nearly twice as many children are also expected to face wildfires, with many more living through droughts and tropical cyclones, according to the **annual [state of the world’s children](#) report.....”**

“... The **report, released on Wednesday, World Children’s Day**, forecasts how the **climate crisis, demographic shifts** ([sub-Saharan Africa](#) and south Asia are projected to have the largest child populations in the 2050s) and breakthrough technologies will affect children’s lives in the future.....”

## **Commercial Determinants of Health**

### **Health Promotion -special issue on the Commercial determinants of Health**

<https://academic.oup.com/heapro/issue/39/6?login=false>

Start with the **Editorial** (by S Thomas et al) - [Acting on the Commercial Determinants of Health](#)

### **Lancet Letter - Should WHO partner with TikTok to combat misinformation?**

Marco Zenone et al; <https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2824%2902429-2/fulltext>

Asking a number of pertinent questions.

## **War & Health**

### **Lancet Offline: Can public health overcome its colonial history?**

Richard Horton ; <https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2824%2902554-6/fulltext>

**One of the reads of the week.** Calling a spade a spade.

Excerpts: “... **Ghassan Abu-Sittah is a British-Palestinian professor of surgery and a plastic and reconstructive surgeon.** He has worked in conflict zones in Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Gaza. In April, 2024, students elected him Rector of Glasgow University. **He was speaking at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) last week at an event organised by the Health in Humanitarian Crises Centre—“The Role of Public Health Institutions in Ethical Reconstruction”.**”

“... **Is it possible for institutions like the LSHTM or The Lancet to participate ethically in the reconstruction of a country riven by war or genocide?** Ghassan Abu-Sittah argued that before one can consider the role of an institution after a conflict, one has to consider its performance during the conflict. **Western institutions have been a part of genocide enablement, he claimed.** Universities have contributed to weapons technologies. They have provided “killing knowledge” to the arms industry. Western media institutions, including scientific journals, have silenced voices trying to encourage a public conversation about war and genocide. **Why are we in this place? According to Abu-Sittah, it is because the west has an “apparatus of institutions” that has aided and abetted genocide.**”

“... **So what do we in western public health institutions do? We have agency. We must take back control of our institutions. But first we must be clear about what is taking place around us.** Abu-Sittah described how particular conflicts have been turned into laboratories to study and address “surplus populations”, people no longer needed by virtue of the politics of the time. The results from one laboratory of war will be learned by authoritarian political leaders elsewhere. And when those leaders face their own “surplus populations”, they will know how to act in a way that defies international accountability.....”

### **Lancet Letter - UNRWA's work is at risk again**

Bassam Abu Hamad, Paul Spiegel et al;

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)02476-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)02476-0/fulltext)

“**On Oct 28, 2024, the Israeli Knesset passed a bill banning the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) from operating in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem.....**”

## **Migration & Health**

**Nature Comment - Health of people who are displaced in their own countries is a neglected global crisis**

D Cantor et al; <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-03760-0>

“**Compared with cross-border refugees, people who are internally displaced receive little attention — despite their dire health needs.**”

« By the end of 2023, there were around 43 million refugees globally. But many more — **roughly 68 million people** — were displaced in their own countries because of armed conflicts and violence...”

« ... **For decades, the problem of internal displacement has been marginalized by governments, United Nations agencies, donors of humanitarian aid and global health researchers.** Between 2010 and 2019, international aid for health care for internally displaced people fell from an annual amount of US\$5.34 to \$3.72 per capita — whereas aid for refugees in low- and middle-income countries increased from \$18.55 to \$23.31. By 2019, aid for health care per capita for internally displaced people globally was about one-sixth of that for refugees<sup>3</sup> (see ‘Decades of neglect’). Likewise, after searching through PubMed, a database of biomedical and life-sciences literature, we found that over the past four decades, about 15–20 times more papers have been published on refugee health than on the health of internally displaced people. **Several initiatives have begun to address the problem. To lessen severe inequity and prevent epidemics and pandemics, the international community must build on this momentum and ensure that much more attention and resources are directed towards the needs — particularly the health needs — of internally displaced people.....**

**Guardian - World’s conflict zones increased by two-thirds in past three years, report reveals**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/nov/21/world-conflict-zones-increased-by-two-thirds-past-three-years-report-ukraine-myanmar-middle-east-africa>

« **Wars have spread and intensified**, with far-reaching impacts on global economic growth and food security, according to **latest Conflict Intensity Index.** »

## **Lancet Series – Early Childhood Development and the Next 1000 Days.**

With two series papers & a few comments.

**Lancet - The next 1000 days: building on early investments for the health and development of young children**

C E Draper et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)01389-8/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)01389-8/abstract)

Second paper: Lancet - [The cost of not investing in the next 1000 days: implications for policy and practice](#) (by M Nores et al)

- And a related Lancet Comment - [The first and next 1000 days: a continuum for child development in early life](#)
- [Lancet Editorial –The next 1000 days: the forgotten ages of child health](#)



## SRHR

### Guardian - He has already fathered many children. Now Musk wants all of the US to embrace extreme breeding

Arwa Mahdawi; <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2024/nov/19/he-has-already-fathered-many-children-now-musk-wants-all-of-the-us-to-embrace-extreme-breeding>

“Trump’s billionaire best friend wants young people to ‘fear’ childlessness. He’ll be right at home in an incoming administration set on rolling back reproductive rights...”

## Access to medicines, vaccines & other health technologies

### Access to Medicine Foundation - Pharma companies still not maximising their potential to reach more patients in low- and middle-income countries

<https://accesstomedicinefoundation.org/news/pharma-companies-still-not-maximising-their-potential-to-reach-more-patients-in-low-and-middle-income-countries>

“The 2024 Access to Medicine Index, which ranks 20 of the world’s largest pharmaceutical companies on their efforts to improve access to essential medicines in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), finds that the current pace of progress is falling short of growing healthcare needs in underserved countries. “

“... Several pharmaceutical companies are prioritising low-income and least developed countries within their inclusive business models, with this trend rising. However, the implementation of these models is currently limited. Momentum in licensing activity has stalled, with only two new non-exclusive voluntary licensing (NEVL) agreements identified in the 2024 Index, compared with six in 2022, signalling a missed opportunity to improve local availability of innovative medicines. Only 43% of clinical trials take place in the 113 LMICs covered by the Index analysis, despite being home to 80% of the global population; since companies typically prioritise access planning in countries where they conduct trials, this leaves much of the world behind.”

PS: Novartis is not only new to the top three spots of the overall Index ranking, but has risen to number one, putting GSK – the long-time leader – in second place.

- Coverage via Devex – [Some progress, but Big Pharma not moving fast enough to deliver access](#)

“A new index finds that while pharmaceutical industry efforts to get their products to people in low- and middle-income countries has accelerated, companies are still not moving fast enough.”

“...The good news is that access is squarely on the agenda. Indeed, 17 of the 20 companies have elevated access to a direct board-level issue. Astellas, Daiichi Sankyo, and Merck & Co. offered evidence of only indirect board-level responsibility. **But, for the most part, the multinationals have**

steadily been expanding the availability of their products in LMICs, often in the form of inclusive business models ....”

“...However, across the board, access strategies still remain disproportionately skewed toward upper-middle-income countries. .... The other problem is that it’s not clear how well companies are executing the strategies they do have in place to reach LMICs. That’s because there is a lack of information about whether products are actually reaching patients. .... Another key challenge is that companies do not appear to be prioritizing research and development into vaccines and treatments for the diseases that disproportionately affect LMICs. .... Another issue that the foundation raised in this year’s index is the shortage of clinical trials for new products in LMICs. “

- And see a [Lancet World Report – The changing story of access to medicines](#)

“The 2024 Access to Medicine Index shows that some manufacturers are increasingly prioritising LMICs, but broader interest in equitable access is waning. Udani Samarasekera reports.”

## HPW - Sustainability is the Focus of WHO’s mRNA Vaccine Programme as Partners Look Beyond COVID

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/sustainability-is-the-focus-of-whos-mrna-vaccine-programme-as-partners-look-beyond-covid/>

Must-read. Coverage/analysis of a **three-day progress meeting on the mRNA hub**, in Cape Town.

“Sustainability is the priority for vaccine manufacturers that are part of the [mRNA technology transfer programme](#) established by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Medicines Patent Pool (MPP). The programme was launched in 2020 to equip low and middle-income countries (LMIC) to make their own COVID-19 vaccines to address the inequity exposed by the pandemic – but few countries want or need these vaccines now. **“The network was built on the premise of a COVID-19 vaccine market. What do the manufacturers do to stay alive,”** asked Martin Friede, head of WHO’s vaccine development unit, at a three-day progress meeting in Cape Town.

“The immediate priority is to ensure that the 15 partners in the network can **“make commercially viable products that they can sell and that there are people out there who want these products,”** he added.... **Dengue, H5N1, malaria, cholera and Rift Valley Fever** are some of the vaccines under research and development (R&D). Some manufacturers **also looking at vaccines for zoonotic diseases like leishmaniosis**, which affects people and animals, **and animal vaccines** to keep their new facilities “warm” and ready for the next pandemic.....”

“MPP executive director Charles Gore said that manufacturers can also **“go beyond mRNA”**: “We need monoclonal antibodies and immune modulators.” ....”

“But unless the manufacturers sell vaccines and other products to address the health challenges of their regions, they will either go bankrupt or move on to commercially viable products, and their new capacity will be lost by the next pandemic.....”

PS: “.... **From zero mRNA manufacturing capabilities in LMICS at the launch, the initiative expects 11 state-of-the-art good manufacturing practices (GMP) certified mRNA manufacturing facilities to**

**be launched in 10 countries by 2030** – two within the next year. Should this happen, **the network will be able to make 60 million doses annually by 2030, with the potential to scale up to a maximum of two billion doses in the event of a pandemic. ....”**

“The initiative is supported by the governments of South Africa, France, Belgium, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Norway, and the ELMA Foundation.....”

## More reports

**UN News - Children face unprecedented challenges by 2050, UNICEF report warns**

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/11/1157221>

**“The future of childhood ‘hangs in the balance’ as three major global forces reshape children’s lives, according to UN Children’s Fund UNICEF’s flagship report released on World Children’s Day. “**

“[‘The State of the World’s Children 2024: The Future of Childhood in a Changing World’](#), explores **three megatrends young people face** including climate disasters, demographic shifts and technological disparities that will dramatically reshape childhood by 2050.....”

**IDS - Women’s and LGBTQI+ rights challenged with ‘renewed vengeance’, new report warns**

<https://www.ids.ac.uk/news/womens-and-lgbtqi-rights-challenged-with-renewed-vengeance-new-report-warns/>

“**Experts are raising the alarm that women’s and LGBTQI+ rights are increasingly being eroded around the world, as they warn of a ‘rising onslaught’ of repression.** The warning and call for progressive movements to build solidarities and overcome differences to help protect gender rights are published today in a [new report](#) from IDS.”

## Miscellaneous

**Guardian - MSF aid workers ‘heartbroken’ as charity forced to halt services in Haitian capital after repeated attacks**

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2024/nov/21/msf-aid-workers-heartbroken-as-charity-forced-to-halt-services-in-haitian-capital-after-repeated-attacks>

“**For the first time in over 30 years Médecins Sans Frontières halts activity** leaving 2 million people in Port-au-Prince without vital healthcare.”

## Devex Pro - Is the aid sector still failing victims of sexual abuse?

<https://www.devex.com/news/is-the-aid-sector-still-failing-victims-of-sexual-abuse-108795>

(gated) **“Two decades ago, a United Nations report found that sexual abuse was commonplace in the aid sector. But little has changed since, experts told Devex, and the problem has not gone away.”**

## Science - Like ‘old Twitter’: The scientific community finds a new home on Bluesky

<https://www.science.org/content/article/old-twitter-scientific-community-finds-new-home-bluesky>

“After recent changes to Elon Musk’s X, a gradual migration turns into a stampede.”

# Global health governance & Governance of Health

## CGD - Rethinking Development Cooperation Working Group: Triangular Cooperation for Better Partnerships?

R Calleja et al; <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/rethinking-development-cooperation-working-group-triangular-cooperation-better-partnerships>

“In early September, members of the [Rethinking Development Cooperation \(RDC\) Working Group](#) met in Cartagena, Colombia, for its third in-person meeting. The three-day seminar was held alongside [APC Colombia’s](#) South-South Cooperation Day and **provided an opportunity to hone in on triangular cooperation**; which is relatively unfamiliar to the group’s OECD Development Assistance Committee’s (DAC) providers, but highly-valued by non-DAC members. While **the United Nations defines [triangular cooperation](#)** as “southern-driven partnerships between two or more developing countries, supported by a developed country(ies) or multilateral organization(s), to implement development cooperation programmes and projects,” it was clear from the RDC’s discussion that **there is no single partnership model for triangular cooperation.**”

“In this blog, we summarize the RDC’s discussion on triangular cooperation partnerships, and draw out key lessons. We argue for investing in deeper understanding of current practice and evidence of impact to demonstrate its value in enabling development partnerships.....”

## Guardian - Nigel Farage’s anti-WHO campaign has link to nicotine products industry

<https://www.theguardian.com/politics/2024/nov/21/nigel-farage-anti-who-campaign-nicotine-products-industry>

“Action on World Health co-founder’s firm provides services to organisation that advocates for nicotine pouches.”

**“Nigel Farage’s group campaigning against the [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) is staffed by consultants who work with the nicotine products industry, the Guardian can reveal. Farage is the chair and a co-founder of [Action on World Health](#), which campaigns to reform or replace the WHO, arguing that it should not be putting pressure on governments to bring in public health measures. The other co-founder is David Roach, whose firm provides secretariat services to the [Global Initiative on Novel Nicotine](#), which advocates for nicotine pouches and other products. Roach’s firm has also lobbied in the past year on behalf of a vaping company called ANDS.” “ In the [Action on World Health “manifesto”, released before the UK election, it opposed “excessive regulation” on vaping. ...”](#)**

PS: **“The WHO has [accused Action on World Health](#) of spreading misinformation about its international treaty designed to improve global pandemic preparedness.....”**

### **CEPR - Bad samaritans in foreign aid**

Rabah Arezki et al; <https://cepr.org/voxeu/columns/bad-samaritans-foreign-aid>

**“Critics of foreign aid are often quick to point out the faults of recipient countries. This column looks at the motives of the donor countries themselves. Examining the flow of foreign aid following major discoveries of natural resources, the authors find that aid flows tend to increase following a discovery despite the recipient country becoming wealthier. The finding suggests that donor countries are not entirely altruistic, but prioritise access to valuable natural resources and their strategic interests above recipient need.”**

Based on a recent paper.

### **Global Policy - Where is UK Development Policy Headed Under the New Government?**

By Andy Sumner ;

<https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/18/11/2024/where-uk-development-policy-headed-under-new-government>

**“The UK budget last week implemented a significant cut to the UK’s aid budget this year. In [this blog](#), I examine this cut within the context of the new government’s commitments and explore what we might expect in the coming period.”**

### **Devex - ‘Unprecedented’ cuts leave Dutch civil society organizations reeling**

<https://www.devex.com/news/unprecedented-cuts-leave-dutch-civil-society-organizations-reeling-108763>

**“The Dutch government plans to cut funding to local and international civil society organizations by around two-thirds, with development players calling it a “devastating and unprecedented” move. “**

“... PS: In its statement last week, **the government said that the 2026-2030 Dutch aid policy will continue to focus on themes where the country “stands out internationally.”** It said funding will “remain available” for areas like combating HIV/AIDS and female genital mutilation; women’s entrepreneurship; clean and fair trade; and human rights, including of religious minorities and LGBTQ+ people.....”

- And via Devex: [A look inside JICA, Japan’s aid agency](#)

“In recent years, **the Japanese yen has spiraled — the Japan International Cooperation Agency, or JICA, has seen its official development assistance reach historic highs.** The reason? **The agency’s heavily loan-based ODA strategy uses low-interest government borrowing and repayments from recipient nations to fund further lending.** “If we exclusively use grants, the decline of budgets means the decline of grants,” JICA’s President Akihiko Tanaka told me a few weeks back when we met at his office in Washington, D.C. **“But we can utilize lending to increase our ODA, and that’s the reason we have a historic high.”** .... **Japan’s reliance on loan-based foreign aid has deep historical roots,** stemming from its own experience as a borrower from the World Bank in the mid-20th century. Today, it stands as **the fourth-largest bilateral donor globally, with nearly half of its \$9.5 billion ODA in 2022 delivered through bilateral loans.....”**

## K Bertram - G20 and COP29 in Times of Crisis

Katri Bertram; [https://www.global-solutions-initiative.org/solution\\_spaces/blog/g20-and-cop29-in-times-of-crisis/](https://www.global-solutions-initiative.org/solution_spaces/blog/g20-and-cop29-in-times-of-crisis/)

“Katri Bertram from Light for the World calls on multilateral fora to include people with disabilities in their agendas and decision making, while action is most needed at the local level.”

## Global health financing

### CGD (blog) - Our Take on the IDA 21 Draft Replenishment Document

<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/our-take-ida-21-draft-replenishment-document>

“Last week, the World Bank released a draft of the IDA21 replenishment report for comment by external stakeholders. Entitled **“Ending Poverty on a Livable Planet: Delivering Impact with Urgency and Ambition,”** the report includes the proposed policy package, financing terms, and allocations for the next replenishment. **Negotiations for the 21st replenishment of the World Bank’s concessional lending arm conclude with a pledging session next month** and will take effect in July 2025. The World Bank is aiming for a [record \\$100-billion-plus replenishment.](#)”

“A key focus of this replenishment is to simplify IDA’s structure by cutting the number of country-level actions by more than half, from 1,011 in IDA20 to under 500 in IDA21, and better aligning IDA results with the [World Bank Group corporate scorecard.](#)”

“Six of CGD’s senior researchers dissected the draft report and the most recent iteration of the policy package on the issues we follow most closely, from financing terms and the private sector window to gender equality and refugees.....”

## UHC & PHC

HP&P - Development partner influence on domestic health financing contributions in Senegal: a mixed methods case study

<https://academic.oup.com/heapol/advance-article/doi/10.1093/heapol/czae110/7906477?searchresult=1>

By Frederik Federspiel et al.

## Pandemic preparedness & response/ Global Health Security

HPW - Post Pandemic: Wastewater-based Surveillance of Diseases Comes of Age

<https://healthpolicy-watch.news/post-pandemic-wastewater-based-surveillance-of-diseases-comes-of-age/>

“A method that first developed around polio elimination and matured during the COVID pandemic, is now being tested and used to track a much wider array of emerging disease threats. A **unique symposium of scientists and public health experts at the Paris Sorbonne University last week** looked at its promise and potential. “

Nature Comment - AI could pose pandemic-scale biosecurity risks. Here's how to make it safer

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-03815-2>

“AI-enabled research might cause immense harm if it is used to design pathogens with worrying **new properties**. To prevent this, we need better collaboration between governments, AI developers and experts in biosafety and biosecurity.”

## Planetary health

Guardian - Countries could use nature to 'cheat' on net zero targets, scientists warn

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/nov/18/countries-nature-cheat-net-zero-targets-paris-agreement-cop29>

“By relying on natural carbon sinks such as forests and peatlands to offset emissions, governments can appear closer to goals than they actually are.”

“... The study, [published on Monday in Nature](#) and led by the University of Oxford, said that naturally occurring carbon sinks such as rainforests and peatlands must be protected so they can remove historic pollution, but never formed part of the original net zero definition developed by scientists in 2009.”

“The scientists underscored the need for “geological net zero”, which means any future carbon emissions must be counteracted by permanent removal of the pollution from fossil fuels – not from pre-existing natural ecosystems. They urged governments to urgently clarify what net zero means at [Cop29](#) in Azerbaijan or continue to risk catastrophic climate breakdown....”

### IJHPM - Well-Being Economics – From Slogan to Discipline?; Comment on “Can a Well-Being Economy Save Us?”

M Henscher; [https://www.ijhpm.com/article\\_4673.html](https://www.ijhpm.com/article_4673.html)

“This commentary addresses Ronald Labonté’s recent editorial, “can a well-being economy save us?” It considers how to assess whether well-being economy policy proposals are likely to achieve real change, or simply represent performative sloganeering. It considers Labonté’s discussion of the congruence between the well-being economy and widely held, cross-cultural values. Finally it explores the relationship between “well-being economics” and the key heterodox economic disciplines it has sprung from, especially ecological and feminist economics; and explores the relationship of well-being economics with degrowth and postgrowth economics as policy goals and models, rather than disciplines.”

### Ecological Economics - Cosmological limits to growth, affective abundance, and Rights of Nature: Insights from Buen Vivir/sumak kawsay for the cultural politics of degrowth

K Richter; <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0921800924003392>

“Cultural change is an integral part of sustainability transformations; **Contemporary limits to growth debates do not sufficiently envision cultural change; A dialogue between Buen Vivir/sumak kawsay and degrowth can overcome this impasse**; Cosmological limits to growth re-embed the human into the natural world; Rights of Nature can impute relational worldviews into materialist views of nature.”

## Covid

### Globalization & Health - Schools of public health as a cornerstone for pandemic preparedness and response: the Africa COVID-19 experience

R Ndejjo et al; <https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-024-01087-z>

Review.



## Mpox

### Annals of Global Health - Challenges and Ongoing Actions to Address the Mpox Emergency in Africa

Faraan O. Rahim, Nicaise Ndembi, Jean Kaseya et al.

<https://annalsofglobalhealth.org/articles/10.5334/aogh.4580>

“This **review** examines key events, challenges, and responses to the mpox public health emergency following the Africa CDC’s declaration of a Public Health Emergency of Continental Concern on August 13, 2024.....”

### BMJ GH (Commentary) - Caught between violence: Mpox virus and the perils of neglect in Africa

Nelson Aghogho Evaborhene et al; <https://gh.bmj.com/content/9/11/e017090>

“Countries in Africa are grappling with an ongoing multi-country outbreak of the Mpox virus. Despite the longstanding presence, there are significant limitations, including restricted access to medical countermeasures such as diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines. **This commentary examines three forms of ‘violence’ driving the Mpox outbreaks: the shifting epidemiology of the virus, socio-economic inequalities and insecurity, and global inequities in access to research funding, testing, treatments and vaccines.**”

## Infectious diseases & NTDs

### Nature - This malaria vaccine is delivered by a mosquito bite

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-03817-0>

“**Bites from insects infected with modified malaria parasites boosted immunity and stopped people from contracting the disease.**”

“... The **study**, which was **published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* on 20 November**, exposed participants to bites from mosquitoes that had a modified version of the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite, which causes malaria. In humans, the parasites travel to the liver and then infect red blood cells. The parasites were engineered to stop developing shortly after delivery into a human. Nearly 90% of participants exposed to the modified parasites avoided contracting the disease after being bitten by malaria mosquitoes.....”

### Lancet Infectious Diseases (Comment) - Overcoming the global tuberculosis crisis with urgent country-level political and financial action

Suvanand Saha, Lucica Ditiu et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099\(24\)00748-5/abstract](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/laninf/article/PIIS1473-3099(24)00748-5/abstract)

“The **2024 WHO Global Tuberculosis Report** presents a stark reminder of the devastating effect of tuberculosis.....” “.... achieving WHO's End TB strategy milestone by 2030 seems increasingly daunting. **While each high-tuberculosis-burden country has made some progress towards these targets, there remain country-specific challenges.....**”

## AMR

### Cidrap - Global antibiotic consumption continues to climb, study finds

<https://www.cidrap.umn.edu/antimicrobial-stewardship/global-antibiotic-consumption-continues-climb-study-finds>

“A new analysis of pharmaceutical sales data from 67 countries indicates that antibiotic consumption has risen by more than 20% globally since 2016 but would likely have been much higher had the COVID-19 pandemic not occurred.”

“The **study**, published yesterday in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* by researchers with One Health Trust, found that **total antibiotic consumption for countries with available data rose 29.5 to 34.3 billion defined daily doses (DDD) from 2016 to 2023 (a 16.3% increase) and the overall consumption rate rose 10.6%**. When the researchers extrapolated antibiotic use for countries that didn't provide data, they estimated a 20.9% increase in total antibiotic consumption and 13.1% increase in the consumption rate.”

“The increase was lower than the 35.5% increase the researchers found when they looked at global antibiotic consumption during the previous 7-year period (2008 through 2015). But that's because antibiotic consumption in the 67 countries with available pharmaceutical data, particularly the higher-income countries (HICs), saw significant declines in outpatient antibiotic use during the first year of the pandemic. Those declines have been attributed in part to masking, stay-at-home policies, and other SARS-CoV-2 reduction measures that may have reduced the transmission of respiratory pathogens that fuel outpatient antibiotic use.”

“The authors of the study say that while the impact of the pandemic makes it difficult to determine whether countries have had some success in efforts to reduce antibiotic use, **post-pandemic increases in antibiotic consumption, particularly in developing nations, suggest more work is needed.....**”

## NCDs

### Global Health Action - A framework for chronic care quality: results of a scoping review and Delphi survey

Grace Marie V. Ku et al ;

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/16549716.2024.2422170?src=exp-la>

Part of a special collection.

NYT – Ozempic could crush the junk food industry. But it’s fighting back

<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/11/19/magazine/ozempic-junk-food.html>

“...The industry is on the hunt for new products.”

### **Health Research Policy & Systems - Implementation of national policies and interventions (WHO Best Buys) for non-communicable disease prevention and control in Ghana: a mixed methods analysis**

Leonard Baatiema et al; <https://health-policy-systems.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12961-024-01242-3>

“To date, little is known about the implementation of national policies and interventions for NCD control in the WHO member states in sub-Saharan Africa. **Our study aimed to evaluate the implementation of national policies and interventions (WHO Best Buys) for non-communicable disease prevention and control in Ghana....**”

### **IJHPM - Governing Political Realities in NCD Agenda Setting in LMICS: A Case of the Carrot and the Stick?; Comment on “National Public Health Surveillance of Corporations in Key Unhealthy Commodity Industries: A Scoping Review and Framework Synthesis”**

P Delobelle; [https://www.ijhpm.com/article\\_4674.html](https://www.ijhpm.com/article_4674.html)

« In their scoping review Bennett et al. present a summary framework for public health surveillance of unhealthy commodity industries (UCI) that impact human health, which is important in view of the rising burden of non-communicable diseases, especially in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). The authors focus on the tobacco, alcohol and food and beverage industry and discuss who should ‘own’ the process; where in the public sector administration the responsibility should lie; and how and which practices or organizations to monitor. They also argue that the monitoring should transition from academia and civil society to (sub)-national governments because of their central role in the protection of public health. **This commentary argues that the challenges related to NCD policymaking in LMICs should be viewed from within a political economy perspective and that support for UCI monitoring has to be bolstered by independent accountability mechanisms and rights-based advocacy at national and global level.** »

### **BMJ Editorial - Road safety in Africa: a preventable public health crisis**

H I Geduld et al; <https://www.bmj.com/content/387/bmj.q2498>

“Health, economic, and social progress will stall without urgent global collaborative action.”

## Social & commercial determinants of health

### CGD (notes) Navigating the Pandemic: Health Taxes and the Financial Performance of Large Tobacco, Alcohol, and Beverage Companies

C Lane; <https://www.cgdev.org/publication/navigating-pandemic-health-taxes-and-financial-performance-large-tobacco-alcohol-and>

“This note assesses how large tobacco, alcohol, and sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) companies navigated the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of sales and profits, in order to provide evidence for raising health taxes on these products.”

“Among the findings: **The generally harmful impact of the pandemic on company profits did not apply to tobacco companies and was temporary for alcohol and SSB companies.** Therefore, arguments for holding back on health taxes never applied in the tobacco sector and only applied temporarily for the alcoholic and SSB sectors.....”

- Related CGD blog – [Big Tobacco Continues to Thrive off Health-Harming Products](#) ( by K Klemperer, P Baker et al)

“A [new CGD note](#) published today explores the financial performance of big tobacco companies, alongside alcohol and sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) industries, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic; we find that **financial results have been strong, especially for tobacco companies**, and that the argument to raise excise taxes on these products is just as valid now as it was before the pandemic. ....”

### Guardian - ‘Capitalism incarnate’: inside the secret world of McKinsey, the firm hooked on fossil fuels

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/nov/20/mckinsey-fossil-fuels>

“Interviews and analysis of court documents show how the world’s most prestigious consulting firm quietly helps fuel the climate crisis.”

- Related Guardian link: [Revealed: McKinsey clients had ‘rising share of global emissions’, internal analysis shows](#)

### Plos Med (Perspective) - The NOVA system can be used to address harmful foods and harmful food systems

Jean Adams; <https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1004492>

“.... The NOVA system offers a new way to approach the simultaneous problems of harmful foods and harmful food systems. **NOVA categorises foods into 4 groups based on “the extent and purpose of the industrial processing they undergo”**”

## **Mental health & psycho-social wellbeing**

**Nature - How students and grandparents could solve the global mental-health crisis**

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-03757-9>

“African researchers piloted a slew of innovative, low-cost programmes for addressing the troubling shortage of mental-health professionals on the continent. Now the rest of the world is taking notice.”

## **Adolescent health**

**Lancet Child & Adolescent Health (Editorial) -The world in 2024 was not all right for children**

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642\(24\)00308-0/fulltext?dgcid=tlcom\\_carousel1\\_whod\\_ed24\\_lanchi](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642(24)00308-0/fulltext?dgcid=tlcom_carousel1_whod_ed24_lanchi)

Not much comment needed, I'm afraid.

## **Access to medicines & health technology**

**TGH - The RSV Prevention Divide**

U Rentia; [https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/rsv-prevention-divide?utm\\_medium=social\\_owned&utm\\_source=tw\\_tgh](https://www.thinkglobalhealth.org/article/rsv-prevention-divide?utm_medium=social_owned&utm_source=tw_tgh)

“Tiered drug pricing and local partnerships could help low- or middle-income countries avoid RSV infections.”

## **Human resources for health**

**Globalization & Health - Navigating brain drain: understanding public discourse on legislation to retain medical professionals in Nigeria**

<https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12992-024-01077-1>

By Seun Ajoseh et al.

## Papers & reports

### HP&P - Learning Analysis of Health System Resilience

Kyaw Myat Thu, Sarah Bernays, Seye Abimbola; <https://academic.oup.com/heapol/advance-article/doi/10.1093/heapol/czae113/7906887?searchresult=1>

**“The emergence of ‘resilience’ as a concept for analysing health systems – especially in low- and middle-income countries – has been trailed by debates on whether ‘resilience’ is a process or an outcome. This debate poses a methodological challenge. What ‘health system resilience’ is interpreted to mean shapes the approach taken to its analysis. To address this methodological challenge, we propose ‘learning’ as a concept versatile enough to navigate the ‘process versus outcome’ tension.** Learning – defined as “the development of insights, knowledge, and associations between past actions, the effectiveness of those actions, and future actions” – we argue, can animate features that tend to be silenced in analyses of resilience. As with learning, the processes involved in resilience are cyclical: from absorption to adaptation, to transformation, and then to anticipation of future disruption. Learning illuminates how resilience occurs – or fails to occur – interactively and iteratively within complex systems while acknowledging the contextual, cognitive, and behavioural capabilities of individuals, teams and organizations that contribute to a system’s emergence from or evolution given shocks/stress. **Learning analysis can help to resist the pull towards framing resilience as an outcome** – as resilience is commonly used to mean or suggest a state or an attribute, rather than a process that unfolds, whether the outcomes are deemed positive or not. **Analysing resilience as a learning process** can help health systems researchers better systematically make sense of health system responses to present and future stress/shocks. In qualitative or quantitative analyses, seeing what is to be analysed as ‘learning’ rather than the more nebulous ‘resilience’ can refocus attention in relation to what is to be measured, explained, and how – **premised on the understanding that a health system with the ability to learn is one with the ability to be resilient, regardless of the outcome of such a process.**”

### Journal of Global health - Synergies and dis-synergies between universal health coverage and global health security: A case study of Cambodia

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11563567/>

By Lo Yan Esabelle Yam et al.

### International Journal for Equity in Health - How can health systems under stress achieve universal health coverage and health equity?

Kumanan Rasanathan ; <https://equityhealthj.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12939-024-02293-2>

Introductory comment to a new Supplement.

### Lancet Global Health – December issue

<https://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/issue/current>

- Start with the [Editorial - Metrics for the people and by the people](#)

Concluding: “ .... **Our quest for one metric to rule them all** must be advanced with caution to avoid the tyranny of counting exercises that aggregates inequity. **We concur with [the call for pluralism and diversity](#) in global health metrics to include other forms of evidence in the measurement toolbox such as qualitative data to restore a nuanced understanding of complex realities.** But since all collectable data are partial and contingent abstractions—numerical or verbal—the **triangulation and combination of multiple types of metric are necessary** to increase usefulness in practice by balancing precision and relevance. **Pluralism also means bottom-up participatory metrics that engage and empower marginalised stakeholders.** Empowering local stakeholders to decide on which metrics to use and participate in metrics development and data collection will disrupt the long-standing postcolonial power asymmetries in global health; such empowerment will also reveal what to prioritise, whether it works, and how interventions can be implemented effectively and equitably at local level. Metrics become more useful if the interests and preferences of the communities can be better aligned with the capacities of researchers, the priorities of policy makers, and expectations of funders and donors.” “**How we should measure progress in global health remains an open question. The growing challenges posed by climate change, geopolitical instabilities, and divisive ideologies indicate that consensus may be fragile and hard-won. However, it is essential that we engage all stakeholders in open discussions and start brainstorming, negotiating, and compromising, to co-create plural participatory metrics in global health.**”

- Check out also: [Lancet GH Comment - The role and recognition of community health workers in research—a global survey](#)

But also with lots of new research articles. Have a look!

### **BMJ GH - Seven core competencies and conditions for equitable partnerships and power sharing in community-based participatory research**

<https://gh.bmj.com/content/9/11/e015497>

By Kim Ozano et al.

### **Lancet (Comment) - Halving premature death and improving quality of life at all ages: cross-country analyses of past trends and future directions**

Ole F Norheim et al ; [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)02417-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)02417-6/fulltext)

“Although death in old age is unavoidable, premature death—defined here as death before age 70 years—is not. To assess whether halving premature mortality by 2050 is feasible, we examined the large variation in premature death rates before age 70 years and trends over the past 50 years (1970–2019), covering ten world regions and the 30 most-populous nations. **This analysis was undertaken in conjunction with the third report of The Lancet Commission on Investing in Health: Global Health 2050: the path to halving premature death by mid-century.....**”