



## HNPFlash Newsletter

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### \*\*\*Reflections from the Reaching the Poor Conference\*\*\*

We like to think that the health, nutrition, population services we support are reaching the poor. But are they? And if they aren't, what can be done to ensure that they are?

These were the questions asked at a February 18-20 Conference on "Reaching the Poor with Effective Health, Nutrition, and Population Services: What Works, What Doesn't, and Why." The conference, held in Washington D.C., was organized by the World Bank in collaboration with the Gates Foundation and the Dutch and Swedish Governments. It was part of a larger "Reaching the Poor Program" that features the commissioning of approximately 20 case studies covering some 50 interventions in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe, and Latin America.

The conference featured presentations based on these case studies and on similar work done by others, and an effort to translate the findings from these studies into policy recommendations. Also included on the conference programs was a set of workshops on methods and data, for the benefit of those conference participants interested in undertaking similar studies on their own.

Many of the results presented were disconcerting. In most cases, overall government health spending was found to benefit the better-off more than the disadvantaged, and thus to increase rather than lessen disparities. This was also true for many initiatives undertaken with the objective of benefiting the poor, such as immunization programs, primary health care, and efforts to provide attended deliveries.

But there were also many promising experiences with new approaches that appear to be much more effective in reaching the poor. In Cambodia, for instance, governmental contracting with non-governmental organizations to operate district health systems produced a patient mix that was notably more pro-poor than standard government services. Also in Cambodia, providing subsidies for hospital care to poor people identified by non-governmental organization representatives appeared equally promising. Bednets distributed through social marketing programs in Tanzania and through measles immunization campaigns in Ghana and Zambia reached poor groups quite effectively. So did food distribution programs in Argentina and Peru. And there were notable exceptions to the general rule that Government expenditures favor the rich: while this may true in most of Asia, for example, the government health spending for health in Hong Kong was strongly pro-poor.

Further information about the conference and the Reaching the Poor Program is available from the Bank's Poverty and Health website: [www.worldbank.org/poverty/health](http://www.worldbank.org/poverty/health). Go to the yellow banner on the right-hand side of the screen labeled "Reaching the Poor Program," and click on any of the items listed.

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### \*\*\*Publications\*\*\*

The **World Development Report 2004 "Making Services Work for Poor People"** reaffirms that broad

improvements in human welfare will not occur unless poor people receive wider access to affordable, better quality services in health, education and other services. The role of providing communities with healthcare, education, and other services has been a controversial issue in many countries, with government services pitted against large-scale privatization. The World Development Report 2004: Making Services Work For Poor People is available at <http://econ.worldbank.org/wdr/wdr2004/>

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#### **Recent World Bank Health, Nutrition, & Population (HNP) publications**

(<http://www1.worldbank.org/hnp/publication.asp>).

[Health Economics in Development](#) by Philip Musgrove (January 2004)

- [HIV/AIDS in Latin American Countries: The Challenge Ahead](#) by Anabela Garcia Abreu (Dec 2003)

New on the **Economics of Tobacco** website (<http://www1.worldbank.org/tobacco/index.asp>):

- [An Economic Analysis of Tobacco Control in Thailand](#) by Isra Sarntisart (October 2003)
- [Research on Tobacco in Indonesia: An Annotated bibliography and review of research on tobacco use, health effects, economics, and control efforts](#) by Triasih Djutaharta (October 2003)
- [Higher Tobacco Prices and Taxes in South-East Asia: An effective Tool to Reduce Tobacco Use, Save Lives and Generate Revenue](#) by G. Emmanuel Guindon (October 2003)
- [The Economics of Tobacco in Sri Lanka](#) by Nisha Arunatilake (October 2003)
- [A Study on the Economics on Tobacco in Nepal](#) by Yagya B. Karki (October 2003)
- [Tobacco Economics in Myanmar](#) by Nyo Nyo Kyaing (October 2003)
- [Economics of Tobacco Control - The Maldives](#) by Ahmed Afaal (November 2003)
- [Appetite for Nicotine: An Economic Analysis of Tobacco Control in Bangladesh](#) by Zulfiqar Ali (November 2003)

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The Frontiers in Reproductive Health Program (FRONTIERS) announces the publication of "The Contribution of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services to the Fight against HIV/AIDS: A Review" by Ian Askew, Senior Associate, Population Council, Nairobi, Kenya and Marge Berer, Editor, Reproductive Health Matters, London, UK Reproductive Health Matters, 2003:11(22):51-73. Please see the full text on their website at

<http://www.popcouncil.org/pdfs/frontiers/journals/AskewBerer.pdf>

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#### **\*\*\*Useful Websites & Tools\*\*\***

The [Public Health at a glance fact sheets](#) aim to provide World Bank staff and others with quick, easy access to the state of the art in core basic health functions, and basic health, nutrition and population (HNP) preventive and curative services. These concise summaries are intended as introductions to the issues and the key interventions proven to be effective in improving health. They may be useful to project teams in the Bank and to others making investment decisions designed to improve health and nutrition. The fact sheets include: Key facts on each topic; Evidence-based interventions; Indicators for monitoring and evaluation; Implementation lessons learned; Selected sources for more information.

Available topics include: reproductive health; child health; immunization; school health; school deworming; adolescent health and nutrition; cardiovascular health; nutrition; malaria; tuberculosis; HIV/AIDS; mental health; tobacco; tobacco pack information; smoke free workplaces; alcohol; surveillance; healthcare waste management; injection safety; road safety; indoor air pollution; water & sanitation; environment. Many versions are being translated into different languages.

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Poverty, in the context of the **Development Gateway**, is seen as a multidimensional phenomenon which does not only refer to low levels of income. "Poverty" includes the deprivation of those basic factors - both

tangible and intangible – which enable people to lead a life that they value. Poverty is thus the absence of an alternative sets of options from which to choose in pursuit of a better life.

The Poverty topic page of the Development Gateway is an open space where people can visit to share the experiences and knowledge on some of the key issues related to the problem of poverty in the developing world. We hope this page will become an invaluable resource of information, dialogue, problem solving and community building for those interested in this topic, providing users with information about poverty reduction strategies applied in different countries and about evaluations of the impact of poverty policies and programs. The page also offers latest news, upcoming events, project information, statistics, useful web links and other knowledge resources.

Since poverty is a broad topic, the guide and advisors for this site have tentatively identified the following key issues which are to be highlighted on this page. Other content is welcome, but postings on these areas will receive more attention on the page: Analysis and Research; Businesses Engaged in Poverty Reduction; Conceptions of Poverty; Empowerment; Financial Services for the Poor; Globalization and Poverty; Impact Evaluation of the Poverty Reduction Policies and Programs; Indicators of Poverty; Poverty and Health; Poverty Reduction Strategies and Policies; Poverty, Education and Training; Rural Poverty

To learn more go to <http://www.developmentgateway.org/node/130670/>

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Recently Launched: [The Malaria Consortium](#), an international organisation dedicated to improving the control of malaria, especially among the poorest and most vulnerable people in Africa and Asia. Malaria is the world's most widespread and serious vector-borne disease, killing an African child every 30 seconds. For further information, please contact: Sunil Mehra, Executive Director, Malaria Consortium, Email: [s.mehra@malariaconsortium.org](mailto:s.mehra@malariaconsortium.org); Phone: +44 (0) 20 7655 4866

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Source International Information Support Centre has a unique collection of over 20,000 international health and disability information resources. These include books, manuals, reports, posters, videos, CD-ROMs, and website. Many materials are from developing countries and include both published and unpublished literature not readily available elsewhere in the UK. All materials are reference on the Source online databases which include references and where to get hold of them, as well as links to full-text materials.

The bibliographic database holds details of the 20,000 resources held in Source with access to some full-text online. The Contacts database allows you to search for organisations working in health and disability worldwide The Newsletters & Journals database links to over 150 free and low-cost international newsletters, magazines and journals available on the web and in print Source are producing a series of topic related 'Quick Lists' of essential information resources in key topics in health and disability. Latest Quick lists include, participatory evaluation, theatre for development, tuberculosis and DOTs, and more. Source has been formed from the merger of the resource centres of Healthlink Worldwide and the Centre for International Child Health, in partnership with Handicap International and Exchange.

Available on-line at: <http://www.asksource.info>

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### \*\*\*Conferences and Training Events\*\*\*

Adapting to Change: Learning Program on Population, Reproductive Health and Health Sector Reform - **Achieving the Millennium Development Goals: Poverty Reduction, Reproductive Health and Health Sector Reform**. October 18-29, 2004 ILO Training Center, Turin, Italy Please click here to view/download [brochure](#) and [application](#).

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#### **2nd Stop TB Partners Forum: 24-26 March 2004, New Delhi, India.**

The Forum will convene ministerial delegations of the 22 highest tuberculosis burden countries, as well as high-level political invitees from the G-8 countries, and all Stop TB partners. The meeting will highlight progress at country level and the importance of private and civil sector involvement. To find out more about the Forum, such as meeting information (invitees, fundings), information for participants and contributors (practical arrangements, logistics and background information), click here [http://www.stoptb.org/events/world\\_tb\\_day/2004/](http://www.stoptb.org/events/world_tb_day/2004/).

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**Public Health in Complex Emergencies (PHCE)** training programs in 2004. World Education, Inc., in collaboration with the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University and the International

Rescue Committee, is implementing a two-week residential course with the following regional partners: American University of Beirut in Lebanon (June 28-July 10); Makerere University, Institute for Public Health in Uganda (November 1-14), and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Thailand (July 26-August 7). The course is intended for:

- NGO/PVO staff who are responsible now (or may be in the near future) for making decisions that affect the health of refugees and internally displaced persons.
- District medical officers and other Ministry of Health staff working in regions affected by complex emergencies.
- Staff from international and governmental organizations instrumental in planning services for people affected by complex emergencies.

The International Rescue Committee is responsible for promoting NGO participation. The brochure and application forms can be downloaded from the internet at:

<http://www.theirc.org/phce>

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**\*\*\*Call for Nominations\*\*\***

**\* Call for Nominations for 3rd Annual CCPH Award**

The Community-Campus Partnerships for Health Award recognizes exemplary partnerships between communities and health professional schools that build on each other's strengths to improve health professional education, civic responsibility, and the overall health of communities. Nominations are due by March 31, 2004. Partnerships may nominate themselves and need not be members of CCPH. We welcome nominations from any country or nation. For further details and submission guidelines, please visit the CCPH website at <http://futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/awards.html>

\*The Call for Abstracts and Registration Brochure is now available for the international conference "Overcoming Health Disparities: Global Experiences from Partnerships Between Communities, Health Services and Health Professional Schools," October 6 - 10, 2004 - Atlanta, GA, USA. The conference is cosponsored by Community-Campus Partnerships for Health and The Network: Towards Unity for Health. The Call for Abstracts and Registration Brochure is available at <http://www.futurehealth.ucsf.edu/ccph/nationalconference.html>

Abstracts can be submitted at <http://www.thenetworktufh.org/conference/abstract.asp>. Please note the deadline for Mini-Workshop, Story Session, and Partnership Blooper session abstracts is April 1. The deadline for the Poster Hall and Thematic Poster Sessions is July 1. Registration for the conference is now open at <http://www.the-networktufh.org/conference/registration.asp>

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**\*\*\*Jobs, Jobs, Jobs\*\*\***

The Food and Nutrition Technical Assistance (FANTA) project is a ten-year Cooperative Agreement managed by the Academy for Educational Development and funded by the US Agency for International Development (USAID). FANTA supports integrated food security and nutrition programming to improve the health and well-being of women and children in developing countries. The Project helps to integrate food security and nutrition into the strategic planning process; provides analyses for food security and nutrition policy development; and shares information and knowledge with partners. FANTA provides technical assistance to USAID Missions and host governments, private voluntary organizations and non-governmental organizations to improve program design, implementation and progress reporting.

- Senior HIV/AIDS Advisor <http://www.fantaproject.org/employment.shtml>
  - Regional HIV/AIDS Specialist <http://www.fantaproject.org/employment02.shtml>
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## SUBSCRIPTION INSTRUCTIONS

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If you receive an error message, contact us at: [hnpflash@worldbank.org](mailto:hnpflash@worldbank.org)

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