*18 December 2017*

In an unequal world, conditions of living that promote ill-health and extreme inequity in access to healthcare services prevents a majority of the world’s population from leading healthy lives. The collapse of public health systems in many parts of the world and the rising commodification of healthcare in several regions, depict the inability of the current neoliberal order to address the rising crisis in health.  Accompanying these trends is a global order where governance for health is being held captive by private foundations and corporations. This is the context that informs the contents of the 2017 Global Health Watch (GHW) report.

Published by Zed Books and now in its Fifth edition, the GHW is widely perceived as the definitive voice for an alternative discourse on health. This new edition addresses the key challenges facing governments and health practitioners today, within the context of rapid shifts in global governance mechanisms and the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. Like its predecessors, it challenges conventional wisdom while pioneering innovative new approaches to the field.

The Watch provides information and analysis embedded in a vision of the world and of human society that is more just, more equal and more humane. As in the case of the previous editions, the contents of Global Health Watch 5 are divided into five interlinked sections.

The section on the ‘The Global political and economic architecture’ draws causal links between decisions and choices that impact on health and the current structure of global power relations and global governance. In his endorsement of the book, Michael Moore, President, World Federation of Public Health Associations, writes: “[*GHW] Offers a courageous and serious assessment, making it compulsory health policy reading*.”

The section ‘Health systems: current issues and debates’ looks at contemporary debates on health systems in different parts of the world, to draw appropriate lessons and propose concrete actions. “*[GHW] Addresses the increasingly complex problems affecting the health of populations. It draws attention to the destructive impact of corporate power and to the abuse of technological and scientific developments*” says Nila Heredia Miranda, former Minister of Health for Bolivia, and Executive Director of the Andean Health Organisation.

The third section, ‘Beyond healthcare’, examines multiple social and structural determinants of health. Comments Nancy Krieger, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, *“[GHW] brings together vision, critique, solidarity, and the promise of a collective path towards health equity for the world’s peoples. GHW5 makes vivid the connections between social justice and public health.”*

The section on ‘Watching’ critically analyses global processes and institutions which have a significant impact on global health. The final section foregrounds stories of action and resistance, from different regions of the world. Paulo Buss, Director, FIOCRUZ Center for Global Health endorses GHWas*:  “A consistent source of critical information and analysis of health around the world. Terrific for researchers, teachers, students and health activists. The current edition will help the fight for better social, economic and environmental conditions.”*

While the book covers a very large canvas, this edition has a particular focus on two areas: the recently announced Sustainable Development Goals; and the rapid transition on global governance for health from a nation driven process to one that promotes the influence of private foundations, consultancy firms and corporations.

GHW5 was coordinated by the People’s Health Movement (PHM), Asociacion Latino-americana de Medicina Social (ALAMES), Health Poverty Action, Medico International, Third World Network (TWN) and Medact.

To buy the book, visit: <https://www.zedbooks.net/shop/book/global-health-watch-5/> , Copies can also be purchased from [www.hesperian.org](http://www.hesperian.org/).

For more information visit <[www.ghwatch.org/ghw4](http://www.ghwatch.org/ghw4)> or contact Gargeya.T <[gargeya.t@phmovement.org](mailto:gargeya.t@phmovement.org)> /Amit Sengupta <[asengupta@phmovement.org](mailto:asengupta@phmovement.org)>.