

Global Health Watch

Mobilising Civil Society around an Alternative World Health Report

GHW Update October 2006 Welcome to our October edition

Please pass on this newsletter to anybody that might be interested in the GHW
To receive periodical updates email GHWatch-newsletter-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

GHW 2007-2008

The process of writing the second edition of Global Health Watch has begun. However, we are still in the process of contacting and commissioning some of the chapter authors.

We continue to get emails from people and organisations that want to collaborate in developing the next report.

Human Interest Stories and testimonies:

We are still looking for human interest stories that fall broadly within the themes being covered by Global Health Watch. Further information about the criteria and guidelines for these is available on the website http://www.ghwatch.org/call_case_studies.php. We would like examples of the negative impact as well as success stories. Stories that are accepted will be placed on the website, and some may be used as examples within the book. Please forward this request on to others and encourage people to write up their experiences. We are not looking for an academic style writing, so anyone can submit! Some examples of what we are looking for are highlighted below:

- A. Overarching political and economic global issues, examples could include:
 - Stories demonstrating the health harming manifestations of 'development' e.g. transport systems, population control, housing developments, diet.
 - Country examples about the control & dispossession of vital and strategic natural resources;
 - Alternatives to the current neo-liberal paradigm in poverty alleviation.
 - Any examples of successful redistribution of corporate wealth;
 - Development and alternative paradigms;
- B. Health Care Sector: Stories to show what is happening with global health – we would like positive and negative examples:
 - Examples of the impact of globalisation on health (medical tourism; GATS; access to medicines, etc);
 - Stories from the grassroots demonstrating the impact of globalisation on people's health;
 - Global Public Private initiatives (Global Fund for AIDS, TB, Malaria; Gates foundation, etc) – stories about your experiences;
 - Comprehensive Primary Health Care: where does your country stand? Are there positive examples (countries, NGO's, etc)
 - Health worker's experiences and stories; training, poaching, skills mix and examples of positive alternatives.

Mental health: crisis in developed world; medicalisation of normal problems; appropriate cultural responses; impact of development on mental health;

Africa's health crisis: new epidemics of poverty & squalid urbanisation; HIV/AIDS; re-emerging 'old' epidemics (malaria, TB); traditional healing, etc.

Additional issues: Avian Flu; Migrants; Indigenous health:

- C. Beyond Health Care:
 - Urbanisation & health problems of the urban poor;
 - Sport & Health;
 - Humanitarian responses to disaster & conflict;
 - Updating & continued watching of chapters covered in GHW1: Education; Water; Food; Climate change; Arms trade.
- D. Watching:
 - WHO & the Commission on Social Determinants of Health;
 - UNICEF;
 - Global Public Private Initiative's including the Global fund for AIDS, TB & Malaria & the Gates foundation;
 - International Financing Institutions (World Bank; IMF, etc);
 - Big Pharma, Intellectual Property Rights;
 - TNC's (infant food; tobacco; alcohol; coke, pharmaceutical, etc)
- E. Right to Health Campaign: stories and testimonies coming out of the Right to Health campaign

Update on GHW 2005-2006

The GHW and Global Health Action (English, French, Spanish and Arabic) are all available for download on our website www.ghwatch.org. Hard copies of GHW1 are available from the publishers Zed books in the UK, UNISA press in South Africa and the Hesperian Foundation in the USA.

Please help us promote the messages from Global Health Watch and encourage others to download it or purchase a copy. Let us know how the GHW is being used in organisations and settings you come into contact with.

Advocacy Discussion documents:

Two advocacy discussion documents have been developed to carry forward key messages from GHW 2005-2006:

- *Making WHO Work Better* – an advocacy agenda for civil society

This document is intended to promote a discussion amongst civil society and the NGO community on the need for a strategy to strengthen the role, authority, capacity and accountability of WHO to improve global health and health equity

- *A Health Systems Development Agenda for Developing Countries* – time to be clear and visionary:

This discussion paper argues for the development of an advocacy agenda to promote comprehensive health systems development in developing countries. It aims to promote discussion amongst health policy experts and civil society organisations (CSOs) about the need for and content of a health systems advocacy agenda.

Both of the documents and a structured feedback form for each document are available on our web site <http://www.ghwatch.org/advocacy.php>. Deadline for feedback is the end of December 2006.

Monitoring the election of new DG for WHO:

The People's Health Movement (PHM), one of the organisations co-ordinating the Global Health Watch, has initiated a process aiming at assisting and enabling an informed voting during the process of election of the coming WHO's Director General. The initiative entails many activities and processes, amongst them are:

The Global Health Watch 2005-2006 had a chapter dedicated to 'watching' WHO, which highlighted the need for greater transparency and greater debate around WHO leadership elections, and the need for strengthening of global leadership.

Drawing up profiles for the thirteen candidates for the position of WHO's Director General. The profiles are being finalized and will be posted to the PHM website in the near future.. PHM is also obtaining candidates position regarding people's health. The responses are being posted on the PHM websites.

The PHM will develop and forward a position statement, based on candidates' responses and the profiles, which will be forwarded to the WHO Executive Board.

The PHM has submitted an article on the expected role of the next DG to The Lancet. The article is divided into two parts: an over-view of the global health situation and the influence of different health concerned global institutions; the second part is explicitly drawing the PHM expectations and demands from the health concerned international bodies, among them the WHO and its director general. The article has been accepted and will be published shortly. The Lancet is also following the DG elections and profiles of candidates, their manifesto's and a number of articles are available on <http://www.thelancet.com/collections/who>.

The Global Health Watch supports this initiative of PHM, and encourages all to follow the process on the PHM website www.phmovement.org.

Get involved! Let us know how you/ your organisation can contribute to GHW. Please send your response to ghw@hst.org.za

- Reviewing chapters; organising or writing human interest stories and testimonies for 2007-2008
- Translation (we need assistance with Spanish translations)
- Produce an accompanying country or regional paper or report
- Funding or fundraising

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