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HealthSystems20/20



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Health Systems 20/20 E-Update - January 2008

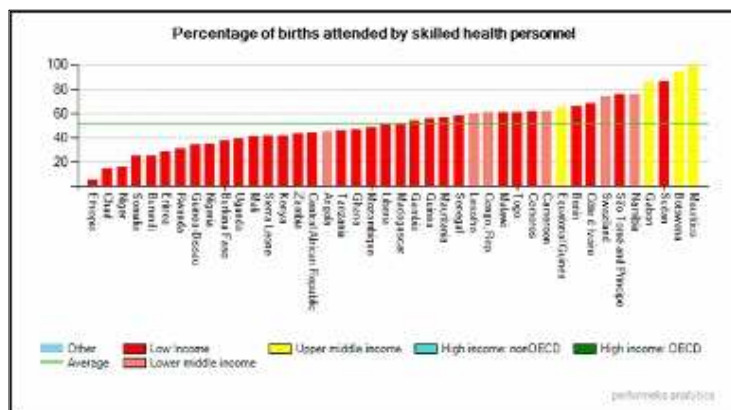
Health Systems 20/20 works to strengthen health systems through integrated approaches to improve financing, governance, and operations, and building capacity of local institutions. This E-Update will be disseminated quarterly.

Contents:

1. Online Health Systems Database Provides Easy Data Retrieval - Coming Soon!
2. Health Governance, an Important Contributor to Health System Effectiveness
3. Accessing Global Health Funds to Expand Vaccination Coverage
4. National Health Accounts Data Spur Advocacy and Action for Child Health in Malawi
5. Demonstrating the Potential of Mutuelles to Improve Child Health
6. Health Systems 20/20 Opens Field Office in Cote d'Ivoire
7. Strengthening the African Field Epidemiology Network
8. National Health Accounts Used to Advocate for Health Reforms in Egypt
9. Building Capacity in India to Address Financial Barriers to Health Services
10. New Publications

1. Online Health Systems Database Provides Easy Data Retrieval

Check the Health Systems 20/20 website soon for access to a new online Health Systems Database. This web-based tool allows anyone with Internet access to do exploratory data analysis, generate visual displays of trend and comparative charts and X-Y plots, and prepare an automated country profile as a first step to deciding whether a full health system assessment using the Health Systems Assessment Tool is needed. Customized country data can be generated within minutes. For further information, contact info@healthsystems2020.org



Sample graph generated from the *Online Health Systems Database*

2. Health Governance, An Important Contributor to Health System Effectiveness

Derick Brinkerhoff, Health Systems 20/20 team leader for health governance, delivered an invited presentation on health governance at the USAID LAC Bureau's Health Managers' SOTA meeting held December 4-7, 2007 in Antigua, Guatemala. Dr. Brinkerhoff defined the concept of health governance and its importance for health systems and sustainable delivery of services. For more on Health Systems 20/20 work on health governance, [click here](#)

3. Accessing Global Health Funds to Expand Vaccination Coverage

In 2006 the GAVI Alliance launched a new grant window expressly for health system strengthening. Health Systems 20/20 assisted the Ministry of Health of Madagascar develop an application for a health systems strengthening (HSS) grant from the GAVI Alliance. The application was conditionally accepted and Madagascar is set to receive up to US\$11 million. This grant will contribute to increasing the country's DTP3 coverage to 95% by 2010. Likewise, in Southern Sudan, Health Systems 20/20 assisted the Ministry of Health set up the GAVI HSS proposal development process and participated in the assessment of the Southern Sudanese health care system using the Health System Assessment Tool. If awarded, Southern Sudan could receive approximately US\$7 million for four years helping the country achieve expansion of quality immunization programs. Visit Health Systems 20/20 country pages at: [Where We Work: Madagascar](#) and [Where We Work: South Sudan](#) for more information.

4. National Health Accounts Data Spur Advocacy and Action for Child Health in Malawi

The Malawi NHA study revealed huge annual increases in household spending despite free public health care services and increased donor expenditures for health. However, the increases in spending by donors and the government have not produced a corresponding improvement in the quality of care and utilization of public health care services. In particular, the child health subaccounts showed comparable levels of spending on child health as other countries including Sri Lanka, but despite its investment, Malawi has much higher under-5 child mortality. The findings motivated a closer look at how health funds are spent. These findings are being used to advocate for new financing approaches, such as performance-based financing, to hold providers accountable for key output indicators such as immunization coverage. [More on NHA](#)

5. Demonstrating the Potential of Mutuelles to Improve Child Health

Unsafe or inadequate supplies of water, and poor hygiene and sanitation are major contributors to diarrheal disease in Rwanda. Only 40% of rural populations and 60% of urban populations have access to safe water sources, and a mere 2.5% of the population has access to piped water in their homes; 27% obtain drinking water from unsafe sources. Health Systems 20/20 designed a demonstration of promoting and distributing a point-of-use (POU) water product (Sûr'Eau) in Rwanda through mutuelles de santé (community mutual health insurance organizations) to expand product use, reduce diarrheal disease, and consequently reduce morbidity and mortality due to diarrheal disease in children under five. [More on Rwanda and Community-Based Health Financing](#)

6. Health Systems 20/20 Opens Field Office in Cote d'Ivoire

To support project work to improve HIV/AIDS service delivery and sustainability, a field office, staffed with host-country nationals, opened in summer 2007. Health Systems 20/20 completed a human resource assessment of both the public and private sectors, and shared findings at a national stakeholder meeting in March to inform a new human resource strategy. HR interventions focus on strengthening managerial and leadership capacity of health managers and administrators at central, district, and community levels; piloting an incentive scheme to attract and retain health workers in hard-to-fill posts; estimating the cost of providing HIV/AIDS medical services and conducting a sustainability analysis on current interventions; and addressing the critical shortage of trained instructors at the INFAS Training Institute to expand the number of trained nurses. [More on our work in Cote d'Ivoire](#)

7. Strengthening the African Field Epidemiology Network

Health Systems 20/20 is building the technical, financial, and managerial capacity of AFENET, a regional organization whose members are five of the best schools of public health in Africa from Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, and Zimbabwe. Strengthening AFENET improves the capacity of members to carry out field epidemiology work related to malaria, avian influenza, tuberculosis, diarrheal diseases, etc. Institutional strengthening activities focused on such practical interventions as improving AFENET's communication infrastructure, revising its governance structure, developing

financial and administrative procedures, and developing a resource mobilization plan. [Click here for more information](#)

8. National Health Accounts Used to Advocate For Health Reforms in Egypt

The Egyptian Minister of Health and Population, His Excellency, Professor Hatam El Gabaly, recently used NHA findings, completed with USAID assistance, to advocate for better targeting of public health resources and expansion of social health insurance in presentations to the Egyptian Parliament. The 2002 NHA showed that 62% of all health expenditures are household out-of-pocket, up from 51% in 1995. In response to a joint request from the Ministries of Health and Population, Finance, and Planning, Health Systems 20/20 will support the implementation of another round of NHA to inform the implementation of these reforms.



His Excellency, Professor Hatam El Gabaly, Minister of Health and Population for Egypt, MOHP Conference "Health Service Development 3" September 2007

9. Building Capacity in India to Address Financial Barriers to Health Services

Uttar Pradesh has a total population of approximately 166 million, with over 30% below the poverty line. Total fertility rate in UP is 4.4 per woman, and the maternal mortality rate is 517/100,000 live births. It is estimated that only 22% of women benefit from skilled assistance with deliveries. Health insurance can improve access to health services such as skilled assistance for poor women and children, thereby improving health outcomes. Health Systems 20/20 is working to define the operational and capacity requirements for a successful health insurance scheme at the state level. [Read more here](#)

10. New Publications

- [Utilizing Performance-Based Financing to Achieve Health Goals, Dec 2007](#)
- [Systemwide Effects of the Global Fund: Evidence from Three Country Studies, Dec 2007](#)
- [Child Health Subaccounts: Resource Tracking and Policy Planning, Nov 2007](#)
- [Health Systems 20/20 Year 1 Annual Report](#)

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