MNCH in the news: 11 - 17 April 2011

**Investing in health crucial to Africa’s economic ...**
The New Times (Rwanda) – 16 April 2011
Development Bank, in collaboration with the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and entitled “Investing in Health for Africa: the Case for ...

**South Africa takes steps to reduce perinatal mortality**
The Lancet – 16 April 2011
South Africa has had some successes with its unique perinatal audit programme but reducing the country's high perinatal death rate is still proving difficult. Adele Baleta asks the experts why.

**Shershah Syed: improving maternal care in Pakistan**
The Lancet – 16 April 2011
Each year at Koohi Goth Women’s Hospital, Karachi, Pakistan, obstetrician-gynaecologist Shershah Syed and his team operate in their spare time to treat more than 1000 patients with vaginal fistulae—a highly debilitating, distressing, and hidden result of complicated labour and stillbirth. As Syed explains “Safe motherhood includes providing emergency obstetric care and working to prevent maternal deaths, stillbirths, and fistulae.”

**African Ministers of Finance to Improve Investments in Health**
Africa Science News Service – 15 April 2011
African Ministers of Finance, Planning and Economic Development have recently reaffirmed the continent’s desire to boost health spending to 15% of national budgets as envisioned by the 2010 Head of State Declaration on Maternal, Infant and Child Health ...

**Mueren en el país 28 niños menores de 5 años por día**
La Nacion – 15 April 2011
Cada año mueren 190.000 bebes menores de un mes en América latina y el Caribe: 16.078 por mes, 3710 por semana, 529 por día, 22 por hora, 1 cada dos minutos? De los chicos que mueren antes de cumplir los 5 años -cerca de medio millón- hasta el 70% lo hace durante el primer año de vida, y en altísima proporción por causas evitables. Que den bien estas cuentas es uno de los grandes retos del continente.

**Urgent need to expand drug roll-out**
Mail & Guardian Online – 15 April 2011
... into infant and maternal health. "Yet HIV continues to be the leading cause of maternal and infant mortality in the African region. In at least four Southern African countries more than 50% of deaths in children under five are attributed to HIV. ...

**EU to infuse €35M to support PHL’s health system reforms**
GMA News.TV – 15 April 2011
The European Union on Friday said it will infuse some 35 million euros to the Philippine government to give low-income Filipinos free access to contraceptives. The EU made this announcement as a way of prodding the Philippines to adopt a reproductive health policy, a measure strongly opposed by the influential Roman Catholic Church.

**The midwife on a mission to stop female genital mutilation**
The Guardian – 15 April 2011
It feels incongruous to be sitting in a cafe in Kendal – a town they call "the gateway to the Lake District" – discussing women's rights in the Rift Valley. And yet it couldn't be more relevant: because Cath Holland, the down-to-earth Lancashire midwife I'm with, has managed almost singlehandedly, and in her spare time, on a tiny budget, to steer an entire province of northern Kenya towards eradicating a practice that surely rates as the most extreme example of male domination today.

**Nacimientos por cesárea, una práctica en abuso**
El Porvenir – 15 April 2011
En hospitales públicos hasta 44% de los 2 millones de nacimientos son por esta opción quirúrgica, y en los privados se eleva a 85%; superan el 15% que marca la OMS.

**2 millones de bebés nacen muertos anualmente**
El Universal – 15 April 2011
Más de 2 millones de bebés nacen muertos anualmente en el mundo, y la mitad de ellos se podrían salvar si sus madres tuvieran mejor atención médica, de acuerdo con un estudio publicado el jueves en la revista médica Lancet.

**'Keep pushing' for universal access to 'reproductive health': new ...**
LifeSiteNews.com – 14 April 2011
... was professor of medicine at the University of Ibadan, and the African spokesman for the UN's Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. ...

**'Premature birth gene' discovered**
BBC News – 14 April 2011
A gene linked to premature births has been discovered by scientists in the US and Finland. The researchers hope their study, published in PLoS Genetics, could eventually lead to a test for women at risk of a pre-term birth.

**Drive to get childhood diseases under control**
Sowetan – 14 April 2011
The Department of Health, Unicef and Discovery health have launched an immunising initiative, "Immunise SA", which is aimed at helping eradicate preventable childhood diseases. Cluster manager for maternal, child and woman health and nutrition in the ...

**NRHM focused on rural healthcare**
Times of India – 14 April 2011
The goals of the mission include, reduction in infant mortality rate (IMR) and maternal mortality ratio (MMR), universal access to public health services such as women's health, child health, water, sanitation and hygiene, immunisation and nutrition. ...

**Woman Bites Pig**
Digital Journal – 14 April 2011
According to the World Health Organization, Canada has seen a steady increase in the maternal mortality ratio over the past decade. Women in Boznia and Herzegovia now have a greater chance of surviving childbirth than women in Canada.

**Kenya: MPs Back Bill to Prohibit Female Genital Mutilation**
Nairobi Star – 13 April 2011
MPs yesterday commended debate on a Bill that seeks to punish those found practicing Female
Genital Mutilation. The motion which was moved by Mt Elgon MP Fred Kapondi received the backing of all legislators who stood to contribute saying it was time the country effected laws to curb FGM.

World Vision India chalks aggressive efforts in Orissa to reduce child mortality ...
pharmabiz.com – 13 April 2011
World Vision India, a humanitarian organization, is now aggressively working to reduce child mortality and improve maternal health in Orissa. The organization has given itself an achievable target by 2015. In this regard, several Orissa-based civil ...

Japan remains steadfast on commitment to Zimbabwe
NewsDay – 13 April 2011
... the improvement of maternal health. The government of Japan is fully committed to assist Zimbabwe in attaining these goals.” The support received from Japan builds onto their perennial support for maternal and child health programmes in Zimbabwe. ...

Why International Day for Street Children matters
The Guardian – 12 April 2011
Tuesday marks the first International Day for Street Children. The day aims to give the millions of street children all around the world a voice. Too often, international days like these fail to capture a collective call to action. We hope that this one will draw attention ...

Development partners call on Ghana to build strong health systems
BusinessGhana – 12 April 2011
Development partners in health on Monday said the best way for Ghana to maintain focus on improving maternal and child health and address inequities in health care was to build a strong health system. who represented the Development Partners, ...

Reproductive health for refugees by refugees in Guinea III: maternal health
7th Space Interactive – 12 April 2011
Maternal mortality can be particularly high in conflict and chronic emergency settings, partly due to inaccessible maternal care. This paper examines associations of refugee-led health education, formal education, age, and parity on maternal knowledge, attitudes, and practices among reproductive-age women in refugee camps in Guinea.

Free contraceptives for all
The Nation Newspaper – 12 April 2011
In a statement by Markus Mangai, the minister said the initiative by the Federal Government was meant to promote family planning programme globally recognised as a key strategy for promoting maternal, newborn and child health and national development. ...

High Maternal Deaths in a Hospital - A Setback to Patient Safety
Express Healthcare Management – 12 April 2011
The hospital is 700 bedded and provides maternal and child health care services in the Marwar region. On the occasion of International Women's Day, when women were supposed to be celebrating their success and emancipation, 17 women lost their life due ...

Deputy Secretary-General Praises American Bar Association as 'Partner and ... IEWY News – 12 April 2011
At the Millennium Development Goals Summit last September, the Secretary-General launched a
Global Strategy for Women’s and Children’s Health, which attracted $40 billion of hard commitments from Member States and a wide variety of donors. ...

Les acteurs adoptent la déclaration d’abandon de l’excision
Sud Quotidien – 12 April 2011
La dame Gnagna Sané a fait la lecture de la déclaration communale d’abandon de l’excision. Elle n’a pas manqué de demander le soutien des autorités administratives, coutumières et judiciaires de tout faire pour une éradication de la pratique tant décriée, source de blessures, de mutilation et d’invalidité chez des femmes.

UN urges action on reproductive health
Press TV- 12 April 2011
The United Nations population fund has urged Member States and partners to take quick action to facilitate universal access to reproductive health. “We need to keep pushing to make universal access to reproductive health a reality,” said Babatunde Osotimehin, the Executive Director of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) calling for the empowerment of women and poverty alleviation.

Ethiopian village fights against female circumcision
Radio Netherlands – 11 April 2011
In the rural village of Senbata Lencho in southern Ethiopia people are fighting the obstinate local tradition of female genital mutilation. More and more young men are marrying uncircumcised girls and even receiving the blessing of the Church and Mosque.

MCD launches e-governance project for maternity homes
New Kerala – 11 April 2011
The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) introduced a software for its maternity homes that would enable them to save all vital information of patients.

Maternal mortality rate dips, now 1 dies every 8 minutes
Daily News & Analysis – 11 April 2011
In 2003 it occurred every 5 minutes. But, by 2011, it took place every 8 minutes. These timings indicate the death of a mother due to childbearing.

Mocambique - Ministro da Saúde "envergonhado" com elevada taxa de mortalidade materna
Angola Press – 11 April 2011
O ministro da Saúde de Moçambique, Alexandre Manguele, disse hoje estar "envergonhado" com a elevada taxa de mortalidade materna no país, estimada em 579 mortes por cada 100 mil nascimentos, anualmente ...

Office of First Lady and UNFPA end three-day forum
Awoko – 11 April 2011
In her presentation on the status of maternal health in Sierra Leone, Sister Florence Kanu said that child birth is supposed to be a universally celebrated ...

EKA conveys social messages with Foot-Tapping Music
RadioandMusic.com – 11 April 2011
... Cup victory earlier this month with the special Hubba song, 'Aasra' for the victims of the dastardly earthquake and tsunami in Japan last month, and 'Chalte Jaana' – a song picked by a United Nations agency to promote women's and children's Health. ...
Development partners call on Ghana to build strong health systems
Ghana News Agency – 11 April 2011
Accra, April 11, GNA - Development partners in health on Monday said the best way for Ghana to maintain focus on improving maternal and child health and ...