This Week's News
29 June-3 July 2009
Weekly news clippings service featuring articles on the Global Health Workforce Alliance and selection of articles from around the world on the issue of the health workforce crisis
All links will lead to the corresponding external web page

Africa & Middle East

LESOTHO: Nurse-led model can work
A pilot programme in Lesotho has demonstrated that primary health care clinics run by nurses can successfully deliver HIV and TB care and treatment services to patients in remote rural areas. IRIN/PlusNews. (6/29).

Strike Paralyses Health Services in Adamawa
Health services in public hospitals and clinics in Adamawa State have been paralysed as health workers in the state began an indefinite strike yesterday. Daily Trust, Nigeria. (6/26).

Nurses Call Off Strike
STRIKING health workers in Lusaka, Livinstone and Kitwe yesterday resolved to call off their boycott as police in Ndola arrested five nurses for unlawful assembly. Times of Zambia. (6/30).

Doctors Defy ‘Return to Work’ Court Order
On Saturday, the Labour Court in Durban granted the Department of Health an interim interdict ordering health workers to return to work. Business Day, SA. (6/30).

Resident Doctors, Others Call Off Strike
Following an agreement reached between the State Government and the Association of Resident Doctors and other health workers in the state at the weekend, the unions have called off the strike. This Day, Nigeria. (6/30).

Rockefeller Pledge Support to Health Systems
The Rockefeller Foundation, a US-based philanthropic organisation has pledged to work hand in hand with the Government of Rwanda to strengthen the country’s health systems. New Times, Rwanda. (6/30).

Zim Nurses Ready to Work in Country
The Government has said nurses from neighbouring Zimbabwe are ready to work in Zambia on local conditions of service and made a final appeal for health workers to call off their strike or lose employment. Times of Zambia. (6/29).
Ouganda: Les structures sanitaires proche du point de rupture
Actuellement, un médecin jeune diplômé gagne de 280 à 550 dollars, et un consultant expérimenté gagne jusqu’à 680 dollars. De nombreux médecins ont été obligés de quitter leur pays pour trouver un meilleur emploi ailleurs. [IRIN-Africa. (6/29)]

Some 350 participants, including Ministers of Health, senior government officials, health programme managers, clinicians and heads of health training institutes, from 36 African countries, are meeting in Addis Ababa in a conference on “Human Resources for Maternal Survival: Task-shifting to Non-Physician Clinicians”. [African Press Organization. (6/30)]

‘Give docs what they want’
I have sympathy for the doctors who have decided to strike in South Africa, simply because the powers that be do not listen or appreciate the importance of the current public health care problems South Africa is facing. [News24, SA. (7/2)]

UK more reliant on care workers from India: study
Britain is increasingly reliant on foreign-born care workers – particularly in London where six out of all care workers are now foreign-born, including from India, a study says. [The Hindu, India. (6/26)]

WHO calls for world response to IDP crisis in Pakistan
The international community should be more responsive in the crisis of the internally displaced people (IDPs) in Pakistan. [Xinhua News, China. (6/27)]

Medical workers continue strike in Dang
Health workers have closed health posts and halted all medical services in Rapti zone in continuation of the banda called by them to protest the attack on Dr Ishwor Raj Devkota at Rapti Zonal Hospital. [República, Nepal. (7/2)]

Shortage of 28,000 health centres in India: Economic Survey
There has been an improvement in the health sector but India faces a shortage of over 28,000 health centres, the Economic Survey 2008-09 said Thursday. [Economic Times, India. (7/2)]

Push to improve Indigenous Health
The Close the Gap campaign will be watching tomorrow’s Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in Darwin to see if governments commit to genuine partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. [The Full Story, Australia. (7/1)]

Public health brigade urged to stand up and be counted
In the article below, Professor Glenn Salkeld, head of the School of Public Health at the University of Sydney, gives an overview of the Nutbeam review and urges colleagues to “get active”. [Crikey.com, Australia (6/30)]

Health workers encouraged to study
THE Ministry of Health has encouraged its staff to conduct researches to help improve health services. [Fiji Times. (6/27)]

GPs fight indentured labour
Rural life isn’t the right life for all overseas doctors, and Aussie country medics back their fight for choice, reports Siobhain Ryan. [The Australian. (6/27)]
UQ Professor leaves Health in better shape
"Peter Brooks has achieved an outstanding reputation locally, nationally and internationally for leadership in a range of areas, including initiatives to meet future health workforce needs," Professor Greenfield said. University of Queensland News, Australia. (6/28).

North America

Obamacare won’t survive coming doctor shortage
President Obama’s ambitious plan for radically increasing the government’s role in the nation’s health care system misses one critical detail: There aren't enough primary care physicians in America now and their numbers are declining. Washington Examiner. (6/27).

Health Care: No Shortage of Ideas (Letter)

Is the nursing shortage really over?
Hard economic times have brought about changes in many industries, and health care is far from immune. For years nursing has been a nearly guaranteed employment choice for candidates up to the challenge. Bizmology. TX. (6/25)

Swine flu shot campaign could involve 600M doses
A potential fall swine flu immunization campaign may involve an unprecedented 600 million doses of vaccine, but health officials are still trying to figure out how to find enough workers to administer all those shots. Associated Press. (6/27).

Doctor shortage proves painful to state
Much of the state is short on primary care providers at a time when the nation as a whole is searching the same pool of doctors. Times Argus, VT. (6/28)

Study: Nursing remains a recession-resilient career
There have been several recessions in our country’s history, but most think about the Great Depression that ended the roaring 1920s – a time when unemployment was at 25 percent for many years. There were expanded needs for rural nurses, but no money to hire them. Vanderbilt University News. (7/1)

Atlas highlights HIV/AIDS burden in Southeast
There is also a shortage of doctors who deal with HIV in the region. CNN. (6/26).

Expanded MSU college looks to help heal Mich. doctor shortage
A shortage of 900 physicians is expected for Michigan by 2010, 2,400 by the year 2015 and as many as 6,000 by 2020, according to the state Department of Community Health. Lansing State Journal, MI. (6/26)

Iraq Nursing Program Crosses Social Barriers and Offers New Hope
Many Iraqis view nurses as women of loose morals because they work long hours in hospitals, and they treat male patients. Fox News. (6/27).

Des primes pour retenir les infirmières
Pour pallier la pénurie actuelle d'infirmières au Québec, le gouvernement de Jean Charest a décidé de délier les cordons de sa bourse et de mettre en place un programme d'incitatifs financiers. Radio Canada. 6/30.)
Strengthening health systems to promote security
We are living through a paradoxical mix of uncertainty and opportunity. The current economic crisis is placing additional strains on a world that is already overburdened by its inability to meet the basic needs of billions of its inhabitants. The Lancet, UK. (6/30).

BMA meeting: representatives say medical associations should speak out against denial of medical services to civilians
The BMA will consider suspending contact with any national medical association that does not speak out against the military targeting of healthcare staff and hospitals or the denial of medical services, representatives at the annual BMA conference have voted. BMJ, UK. (7/2).

Moving forward with maternal health and human rights (Editorial)
500,000 women die each year as a result of pregnancy or childbirth. Efforts are being made to reduce these deaths by three quarters by 2015—Millennium Development Goal 5. The Lancet, UK. (6/27).

Policy Win For Independent Health Workforce And Training, Australia
The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) welcomes the amendments made to the Health Workforce Australia Bill 2009 this week. Medical News Today, UK. 6/26.

Workforce planning for all eventualities
The FÁS report into manpower planning exposes significant shortages in three health professions and oversupply in others. Lloyd Mudiwa reports. Irish Medical News. (6/29).

Russia’s health promotion efforts blossom
In a bid to reduce Russia’s high rates of preventable disease, the government, with the help of non-governmental organisations, is bringing health promotion to the people. Tom Parfitt reports. The Lancet, UK. (6/30).

People protectionism
Rich countries respond to the economic downturn by trying to limit the flow of migrants. The Economist, UK. (7/1).

'Lack of urgency' on NHS violence
More than 7,000 incidents of violence and aggression were reported by frontline NHS staff in 2008. BBC News, UK. (7/1).

1,320 sanitarios en la ‘UVI’ por el euskera
El Gobierno vasco buscará «encaje» a los profesionales que se encuentran en un limbo legal al no aprobar el perfil exigido en los plazos establecidos. Correo Digital, Spain. (6/29).

Some 45,000 people die each month in Congo as result of collapsed health service, says UN official
The breakdown of the healthcare infrastructure in the Democratic Republic of Congo poses a huge challenge to humanitarian aid groups trying to provide lifesaving health care in the war ravaged nation. BMJ. (6/30).

Latin America & Caribbean

Neonatólogos podrían retornar a centros críticos
Es el caso de la Maternidad Concepción Palacios y el Materno-Infantil de Caricuao, donde no hay ni personal médico ni de enfermería especializado para atender la terapia intensiva. Entorno Inteligente, Venezuela. (7/1).

Cinco departamentos necesitan al menos contratar 490 médicos
Los Servicios Departamentales de Salud (Sedes) de cinco departamentos del país, Tarija, La Paz, Potosí, Pando y Santa Cruz, necesitan por lo menos 490 médicos para encarar principalmente acciones contra la nueva gripe A.

**Intervienen Departamento de Enfermería de Clínicas**
El Consejo Directivo de la Facultad de Ciencias Médicas de la Universidad Nacional de Asunción (UNA) resolvió ordenar la intervención administrativa del Departamento de Enfermería del Hospital de Clínicas, ante el déficit de gestión.

**Trabajadores presentan crítico informe de situación del hospital de Cipolletti**
En cuanto a clínica médica el trabajo describe que "faltan médicos y enfermeros, ya que vienen médicos de otros servicios u hospitales a cubrir guardias.

**Colegio de Enfermeras respondió con críticas al llamado de Erazo a colaborar**
Corral cifró en 700 las enfermeras que faltan en hospitales públicos y otras 1,000 en la atención primaria y acusó molestia por la falta de una propuesta ....

**Faltan 120 médicos nos PSFs**
Deficiência integra um conjunto de problemas na atenção primária e foi discutida ontem por secretários de Saúde.

**News from WHO and partners**

**Health workforce retention in remote and rural areas: call for papers**
Although approximately one half of the global population lives in rural areas, these people are served by only 38% of the total nursing workforce and by less than a quarter of the total physicians’ workforce.  

**ICN recognizes outstanding Spanish nurse leader with nursing’s top international award**
"The enthusiastic and charismatic leadership of Dr González Jurado has encouraged nurses around the world to strive for health care excellence" commented ICN President, Hiroko Minami.

**Designing financial-incentive programmes for return of medical service in underserved areas: seven management functions.**
In many countries worldwide, health worker shortages are one of the main constraints in achieving population health goals.

**Understanding informal payments in health care: motivation of health workers in Tanzania**
There is growing evidence that informal payments for health care are fairly common in many low- and middle-income countries.

**Family Planning and Reproductive Health Have Fallen Off Global Development Radar — World Bank,**
On the eve of the 20th anniversary of World Population Day, the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) warned that family planning and other reproductive health programmes vital to poor women had fallen off the development radar.

**United Nations Gathering of Global Experts to Address Current Crisis in Family Planning**
Family planning experts from around the world warn that the lack of funding
for family planning is stalling development efforts in poor countries. UNFPA. (6/30).

Global leaders still committed to MDG Health goals, despite economic downturn

The University of New South Wales' Initiative for Health and Human Rights
INTENSIVE COURSE ON HEALTH, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS
7th-11th December 2009, UNSW, Sydney, Australia. IHHR, Australia. (7/3).