Week 7: How Can Countries Improve Health & Nutrition?

Key Health & Nutrition Issues
Grady, ‘On an Altered Planet, New Diseases Emerge as Old Ones Re-Emerge’
1. According to a 2000 WHO report, what 6 factors have likely affected the distribution & emergence of infectious diseases since the 1970s?

2. What human activity do scientists believe played an essential role in the birth of the AIDS epidemic?

Ford, “Foes of ‘Globesity’ Run Afoul of Sugar’s Friends”
1. Why is globesity spreading faster in LDCs than in DC and what strategies has WHO recommended to governments to address the problem (i.e. recommendations for people, the food industry & government policies)?

2. According to WHO studies, what is the relationship between habitual food scarcity and obesity?

Montlake, “Thailand Takes Lead in Global Tobacco Fight”
1. According to the coordinator of the Southeast Asia Tobacco Control Alliance, why has Thailand been successful in curbing tobacco use?

2. What does the new WHO-backed Framework Convention on Tobacco Control require participants to do?

3. Why is Thailand ranked as one of the toughest markets for hawking tobacco products?

Montlake, “International Effort to Stop Land Mines Bears Fruit”
1. While the campaign may be slowing, why do some observers say that the Ottawa Mine Ban Treaty is bearing fruit?

2. What group was responsible for the international ban on land mines and what is unusual about how the Ottawa convention enforces the ban & the deadlines for destroying stockpiles?
McDonald, “Finally the World’s Drinking Glass is More Than Half Full”
1. According to a recent WHO & UNICEF report, what critical tipping point was reached last year?

2. How have projects that provide clean/piped drinking water and/or basic sanitation benefitted women, children, and poor urban dwellers in capital cities?

Crawley, “Puppets Get People Past the Taboos”
1. What issues are puppet shows focusing on in Africa and why are puppet shows gaining popularity among organizations with an educational mandate?

2. What type of projects are donor agencies increasingly funding?

Baldauf, “India’s Bid to Boost Healthcare in the Slums”
1. Why are India’s urban slums facing a health crisis?

2. How is a pilot project—funded by USAID & run by private healthcare advocacy groups—helping slum dwellers to improve their own health?

Itano, “World’s Richest Man’s Imprint on Africa”
1. What are 3 initiatives that the Gates Foundation is funding to tackle health-related problems facing developing countries?

Baldauf, “India’s Popular Soap Operas Become a National Soapbox”
1. What are a number of Indian soap operas trying to do and what are some issues they are addressing?

Chopra, “Pay as You Go: Clean Toilet Program in India’s Towns”
1. The Sulabh International Social Service Organization is sparking a sanitation revolution. What is this organization doing to meet the sanitation needs of poor people in Indian towns and what is an innovative modification to Sulabh’s systems?

2. According to India’s Ministry for Rural Development, what is the health problem that is caused by a lack of sanitation?
**Carroll, “Egypt’s Child Healthcare Lessons”**
1. What 4 factors are responsible for the significant drop in Egypt’s infant mortality, child mortality, and maternal mortality rates during the past decade?

2. According to Aziz, why are more women now giving birth in a hospital, compared to in the past?

**Chauvin, “Peru Gives its Poor More Money, But There’s a Catch”**
1. What is the new model for addressing the need of the downtrodden that is sweeping the (Latin American) continent and what is different about this program, compared to traditional programs?

2. Who is eligible for Peru’s *Juntos* (Together) program, what benefits do participants receive, and what are participants required to do?

**Focus on HIV/AIDS**
**McLaughlin, “In Africa, New Commitment to Treat AIDS”**
1. After years of debate about how/if Africans diagnosed with HIV/AIDS should be treated, on what is there now significant global agreement?

2. Why is there a growing realization that dependence on these drugs will require new spending?

3. Why is it not clear how quickly first-line AIDS/HIV drugs will be effective in Africa?

**Harman, “Kenya’s Slums Battle AIDS”**
1. What percent of the 40 million people with HIV/AIDS live in Sub-Saharan Africa? How many Africans have already died? How many African children have been left AIDS orphans? Within 10 years, what is the projected impact of AIDS on average life expectancy in the 11 most severely affected African countries?

2. What was the focus of the talk at the Barcelona conference and what needs to be done to combat AIDS in LDCs?
3. What’s the goal of KICOSHEP, who does it assist, and what does it provide in addition to recreational activities?

**Itano, “In Southern Africa, Teen Abstinence is ‘Cool’”**
1. What are the 2 messages that the AIDS prevention campaign—dubbed HEART—is sending to Zambian youth and how is HEART communicating its message?

2. What evidence indicates that HEART’s message is hitting home?

3. Despite its success, why is a debate raging about the HEART campaign?

**Downie, “Brazil Pushes for Cheaper Drugs and Free AIDS Diagnosis”**
1. Why does Dr. Galindo say that early diagnosis of the (HIV/AIDS) benefits both the patient and taxpayers?

2. What did Brazil do in 1996 to fight HIV/AIDS and how did Brazil reduce the amount it spends on antiretroviral drugs?

3. Recently, a landmark agreement was signed by Latin American health ministers and 26 drug companies. What does this agreement do?

**Montlake, “Asian Faith Groups Join AIDS Fight”**
1. What are 2 reason that attention is turning to the role of faith-based groups in HIV/AIDS prevention and care in Asia?

2. What are faith-based groups in Bangladesh (Muslim) and Thailand (Buddhist) doing to combat HIV/AIDS?

**LaFranchi, “25 Years of on, AIDS Still Spreading”**
1. The UN’s 5-year review of global efforts against AIDS highlighted progress and a worrying trends. What trend is an encouraging note and what is chief among trends of concern?
2. Despite the fact that the Bush administration has boosted HIV/AIDS funding and is paying special attention to the impact of AIDS in Africa, development and health groups are critical of U.S. policy. Why (3 reasons) are they critical of U.S. policy?

McLaughlin, “Africa Fights AIDS with Girl Power”
1. What is the current thinking on how to best tackle the (AIDS) epidemic?

2. What numbers (UN AIDS Report) are increasingly cited as reasons to change longstanding gender inequalities and cultural practices (in Africa)?

3. What is Uganda’s Parliament, Joyce Kintu, and a growing number of Ugandan groups doing to combat AIDS?

McLaughlin, “Next Target for AIDS Fight, Sugar Daddies”
1. What type of a relationship is referred to as Africa’s “sugar daddy” culture and why is this phenomena increasingly being tackled as a key social and moral factor in the spread of AIDS?

2. What are 3 reasons why young women accept “sugar daddies”?

3. What are 3 ways that Uganda is tackling the “sugar daddy” issue?

Hanes, “A Safe Place for Children in the Age of AIDS”
1. What is Winnie Mabaso (and her neighbors) doing to help alleviate the burden of AIDS?

2. According to Richard Delate (UN AIDS), what is the regional phenomena that has grown as the burden of AIDS has deepened?
Controversies
Montlake, “Thailand Widens Scope of Generic Drugs”
1. What did the Thai government do that reignited the debate in the developing world over public-health emergencies and what makes Thailand’s move so provocative & potentially ripe for imitation?

2. What did the U.S. do in 2001, which shows that developing countries aren’t the only ones willing to cast aside intellectual property rights when it suits them?

Montlake, “Milk Formula Goes on Trial in Asia”
1. According to health experts, why are Asian countries backsliding in their efforts tout the health benefits that most physicians associate with breast milk?

2. According to WHO, what are the advantages of breast milk, compared to formula; and according to UNICEF, what has been the consequences of such practices (feeding formula to young children) in the Philippines?