

The Health News Updates (August 8, 2015)
From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

National	International
Maternal and Child Health	
<p>भगवान भरोसे महिला स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं</p> <p>हरदोई, जागरण संवाददाता : ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्वास्थ्य सेवाएं भगवान भरोसे हैं, खासकर महिलाओं के मामले तो और भी हालत बदतर हैं। कहने को तो ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में स्वास्थ्य केंद्र और महिला चिकित्सक तैनात हैं, लेकिन चिकित्सकों के न मिलने से महिलाओं को स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं का लाभ नहीं मिल पा रहा है। और तो और एनएनएम और आशा भी ढूंडे नहीं मिलती हैं। -</p> <p>http://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/hardoi-12664555.html#sthash.0efpdTyf.dpuf</p>	<p>Child immunisation rates more affected by poverty and bad health than ideology</p> <p>Anti-vaccination beliefs aren't the main reason almost 10% of Australian children remain unimmunised.</p> <p>Family finances, access to services and chronic health conditions were key factors in why some parents don't keep their children's injections up to date, a University of Adelaide study found.</p> <p>http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/aug/06/child-immunisation-rates-more-affected-by-poverty-and-bad-health-than-ideology</p>
<p>Cellphones can help improve health of low-income urban women</p> <p>Cellphone use has the potential to improve the health of low-income, urban women at risk for diabetes and other diseases during their childbearing years, a new study has found. In a survey of a diverse group of almost 250 young, low-income, inner-city pregnant and postpartum women in the US, researchers found that more than 90 per cent used smartphones or regular cellphones to give and get information.</p> <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/life-style/cellphones-can-help-improve-health-of-low-income-urban-women/#sthash.cT4Jas3u.dpuf</p>	<p>Rwanda: 36 Percent of HIV-Positive Children Have No Access to Drugs – Study</p> <p>As much as 36 per cent of children with HIV have no access to medical care, a joint survey by Rwanda Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS and Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC) shows.</p> <p>Vianney Byiringiro Rusisiro, a senior paediatric officer at RBC, said effective treatment of HIV-positive children is hindered by mindsets of parents who do not reveal their children's status.</p> <p>http://allafrica.com/stories/201507300653.htm</p>
<p>MP govt to provide free meal to pregnant women</p> <p>With an aim to reduce maternal and infant mortalities and ensure overall maternal health, the Madhya Pradesh (MP) government has decided to provide one free meal every day to pregnant women in selected districts from August 15.</p> <p>The scheme of the Department of Women and Child Development (DWCD) would be known as 'Full Meal</p>	<p>High price tags and ugly secrets — how the pregnancy surrogacy industry preys on poor women</p> <p>Women from a poor areas in the world are playing a large role in the multibillion dollar pregnancy surrogacy industry, with many mothers being forced or coerced into carrying a child for someone else.</p>

<p>Scheme'.</p> <p>http://www.hindustantimes.com/bhopal/mp-govt-to-provide-free-meal-to-pregnant-women/article1-1377253.aspx</p>	<p>“Surrogacy depends in many cases on the exploitation of poor women, because it’s the poor who have to sell and the rich that can afford to buy,” Christopher White told CNA July 23.</p>
<p>Question raised in Lok Sabha on ICDS Scheme, 31/07/2015</p> <p>Question raised in Lok Sabha on ICDS Scheme, 31/07/2015. Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme being implemented by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The scheme aims at holistic development of children below 6 years of age and pregnant women & lactating mothers by providing a package of six services comprising (i) Supplementary nutrition; (ii) Pre-school non-formal education; (iii) Nutrition and health education; (iv) Immunization; (v) Health check-up; and (vi) Referral services at Anganwadi Centres through Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Anganwadi Helpers (AWHS) at grassroots level. Three of the six services viz. immunization, health check-up and referral services are related to health and are provided through NRHM and Public Health Infrastructure. A statement indicating State/UT-wise grants-in-aid released and expenditure reported, including the State share, for the year 2012-13,2013-14 and 2014-15 (upto 30.6.2015), under ICDS Scheme, is annexed</p>	<p>http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jul/26/high-price-tags-and-ugly-secrets-how-surrogacy-pre/?page=all</p>
<p>Family Planning International News</p>	
<p>PMA2020 Q&A: Sparking a Data Revolution for Family Planning</p> <p>Performance Monitoring and Accountability (PMA2020) is a 5-year monitoring and evaluation project created to answer the call for better data to guide family planning programs. Using innovative mobile/smartphone technology, it collects nationally representative data on health and development, including family planning and water and sanitation, across 10 countries in Africa and Asia.</p> <p>http://www.globalhealthnow.org/news/pma2020-sparking-a-data-revolution-for-family-planning</p>	
<p>After US and China, India is the third-largest market for morning after pills</p> <p>According to recently released data from Euromonitor International, India’s market for emergency contraceptives jumped 88% to \$104.4 million (Rs 667 crore) between 2009 and 2014, ranking the country third in the world after the US and China. Together, these three countries accounted for about 73% of global emergency contraceptive sales.</p> <p>http://scroll.in/article/746517/after-the-us-and-china-india-is-the-third-largest-market-for-morning-after-pills</p>	

UN projects world population to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, driven by growth in developing countries

29 July 2015 – The world’s population is projected to reach 8.5 billion by 2030, 9.7 billion by 2050 and exceed 11 billion in 2100, with India expected to surpass China as the most populous around seven years from now and Nigeria overtaking the United States to become the world’s third largest country around 35 years from now, according to a new United Nations report released today.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51526#.VcSV2vmqqkp>

Abortion

National

In fact: Why India’s abortion law needs an urgent update

It was in 2008, when Mumbai couple Haresh and Niketa Mehta petitioned the Bombay High Court to allow them to abort their 26-week-old foetus who had been diagnosed with a heart defect, that the fraught issue of the legal limit for abortion in an age of rapidly advancing medical technology, first burst on to the national scene

<http://indianexpress.com/article/explained/in-fact-why-indias-abortion-law-needs-an-urgent-update/>

International

Chile’s lawmakers introduce bill to decriminalise abortion

Chile took a step toward easing its strict ban on abortion on Tuesday after legislators in the nation’s lower chamber voted to advance a bill that would overturn the prohibition.

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/chile-s-lawmakers-introduce-bill-to-decriminalise-abortion/article1-1376710.aspx>

Women lack access to safe abortions in humanitarian crises, experts say

LONDON, Aug 6 (Thomson Reuters Foundation) - Efforts to provide safe abortions in countries hit by conflict or disasters are being held back by a lack of information and funding, said health experts in London as they presented new research on the state of reproductive health in emergencies.

<http://www.trust.org/item/20150806155155-edgzp/>

Reproductive Health	
National	International
<p>Government plans to reintroduce HPV vaccine</p> <p>More than five years after the government suspended the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine trials in India in which some girls reportedly died after having been administered the vaccine used to prevent cervical cancer, plans are afoot to introduce the vaccine in the routine immunisation program-me. Taking its first steps forward, the government has asked the National Technical Advisory Group on immunisation (NTAGI), an advisory group on immunisation, to conduct a feasibility study on the vaccine so that it can be introduced in the country.</p> <p>http://www.asianage.com/india/government-plans-reintroduce-hpv-vaccine-308</p>	<p>Global Evaluation Report: Reproductive Health in Humanitarian Emergencies Remains Fatal Omission</p> <p>Reproductive health remains drastically underfunded in humanitarian settings according to a global evaluation released today by the Inter-Agency Working Group (IAWG) on Reproductive Health in Crises. The largest gaps— including the provision of comprehensive family planning, emergency contraception and abortion care — have only marginally improved since the last global evaluation in 2002.</p> <p>http://www.rescue.org/press-releases/global-evaluation-report-reproductive-health-humanitarian-emergencies-remains-fatal-o</p>
<p>Outsourcing motherhood: India's reproductive dystopia</p> <p>It's early morning in the mid western state of Ohio in the US, but Michael Morris (name changed on request), 54, is excited to talk about his "India experience". About six months ago, Michael and his wife, in her early 50s, had a daughter through a surrogate mother in Delhi. "The medical aspect was first rate; we were able to see the surrogate mother, she was healthy; everything went well," Michael tells me over the phone, before pausing and adding, "I know many people would not have had an experience like ours. But there are reasons for that."</p> <p>http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/outsourcing-motherhood-india-s-reproductive-dystopia/article1-1373360.aspx</p>	<p>A Real Victory for Women and Girls</p> <p>We did it! After three years of intense debate and negotiations, on Sunday evening at the United Nations, 193 governments agreed to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This robust, 15-year agenda promises transformative change for women and girls all over the world.</p> <p>http://www.huffingtonpost.com/francoise-girard/a-real-victory-for-women_b_7942312.html?ir=India&adsSiteOverride=in</p>
<p>Surrogate mothers forced into practice by husbands, boyfriends</p> <p>Washington D.C. (CNA/EWTN News) - "Surrogacy depends in many cases on the exploitation of poor women, because it's the poor who have to sell and the rich that can afford to buy," Christopher White told CNA July 23</p> <p>http://www.catholic.org/news/hf/family/story.php?id=62359</p>	<p>Surrogate mothers forced into practice by husbands, boyfriends</p> <p>Washington D.C. (CNA/EWTN News) - "Surrogacy depends in many cases on the exploitation of poor women, because it's the poor who have to sell and the rich that can afford to buy," Christopher White told CNA July 23</p> <p>http://www.catholic.org/news/hf/family/story.php?id=62359</p>

<p>Despite measures, AIDS spreads alarmingly in U'khand</p> <p>NAINITAL: In an illustration of how fast HIV is spreading in Uttarakhand despite the government spending crores in AIDS-control measures, a query by a Haldwani-based RTI activist has revealed that the state spent almost Rs 5 crore in curbing the disease and spreading awareness in last 10 years, while 652 deaths due to the dreaded virus were reported in the last 13 years. Meanwhile, despite government claims of success, the number of HIV-positive cases have continued to spiral, with a staggering 858 registered in 2014-15, against 37 in 2002-03.</p> <p>http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/dehradun/Despite-measures-AIDS-spreads-alarmingly-in-Ukhand/articleshow/48365821.cms</p>	<p>Women caught up in conflict failed by underfunding of sexual healthcare</p> <p>Funding for reproductive healthcare during humanitarian emergencies has increased over the past decade but is still woefully short of the level required to meet growing needs and save lives, according to a recent evaluation of services.</p> <p>http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/aug/06/reproductive-health-in-crisis-women-family-planning-abortion-inter-agency-working-group</p>
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Other Health News

National	International
<p>30% beds for EWS patients lie vacant</p> <p>Over 30 per cent beds meant for patients from the economically weaker sections (EWS) in private hospitals across the Capital are lying vacant. This is according to the latest figures released by the Delhi High Court-constituted committee for monitoring bed/other medical facilities available to EWS patients.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/a-private-affair/article7500824.ece</p>	<p>Why an Indian doctor accused of crimes is set to lead the world's top medical ethics body</p> <p>For several years, Dr. Ketan Desai has been facing allegations that he conspired in 2009 to have the Medical Council recommend that a private medical college be allowed to add more students. The Lucknow case, which is scheduled to resume Aug. 20, isn't Desai's only legal problem. He also faces charges in a separate criminal case in New Delhi. Prosecutors there allege he was involved in a conspiracy in 2010 to obtain a 20 million rupee bribe – about \$450,000 at the time – in return for having the Medical Council recommend allowing another school to expand its student body.</p> <p>http://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/india-medicine-doctor/</p>
<p>Himachal nod for 12-cr. health care scheme</p> <p>Around 1.5 lakh people, including single women, senior citizens among others are expected to benefit from the 'Mukhya Mantri State Health Care Scheme' (MMSHCS) announced by the Himachal Pradesh government on Thursday.</p> <p>http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/tp-otherstates/himachal-nod-for-12cr-health-care-scheme/article7483154.ece</p>	
<p>Pollution raises risk of dementia</p>	

People who live in homes exposed more heavily to pollution run a 40 percent greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia than those who live in areas with cleaner air, a study at Umea University says.

http://zeenews.india.com/news/health/health-news/pollution-raises-risk-of-dementia_1641867.html

Ensure primary health centres are functional: NHRC

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Wednesday issued a notice to the Delhi government over reports about the government's plans to set up 1,000 Aam Aadmi Clinics. The media reports, the commission observed, pointed "towards a glimmer of hope on one hand and a state of despair on the other, that the Delhi government is planning to have 1,000 Aam Aadmi Clinics in the city by next year, but has failed to revive the 228 existing primary health centres."

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/ensure-primary-health-centres-are-functional-nhrc/#sthash.9cQFxGhn.dpuf>

Hospital on Wheels a Boon to Villages without Primary Health Centres

VELLORE: The 'Hospital on Wheels' (HOW) scheme in Vellore district has emerged as an ideal platform for extending healthcare services to people living in remote villages out the ambit of PHCs and government hospitals.

http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/tamil_nadu/Hospital-on-Wheels-a-Boon-to-Villages-without-Primary-Health-Centres/2015/08/07/article2961784.ece

Delhi government plans health survey of children under five

After launching the first of their promised 1,000 mohalla clinics last month, the Delhi government will be launching another project to help reduce the gap between hospitals and the people — this time for young children.

<http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/delhi-government-plans-health-survey-of-children-under-five/>

After mohalla clinics, more changes in healthcare soon

The AAP government, which recently started mohalla clinics, plans to restructure its health department. Now, all the 11

<p>revenue districts of the capital are under one director of health services. But beginning August 14, there will be five health directors – one each for north, south, east, west and central districts. The regional health directors will report to the director of health services, a post that will be upgraded to director general (health services).</p> <p>http://indianexpress.com/article/cities/delhi/after-mohalla-clinics-more-changes-in-healthcare-soon/</p>	
<p>2 from Delhi bag Magsaysay</p> <p>NEW DELHI: Anshu Gupta (44), the founder of NGO Goonj who has been chosen for this year's Ramon Magsaysay award, says extreme poverty that deprives people of clothing and sanitation had motivated him to work on recycling of used clothes.</p> <p>http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/delhi/2-from-Delhi-bag-Magsaysay/articleshow/48274560.cms</p>	

<p align="center">Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health</p>
<p>Poverty, Pregnancy, and Birth Outcomes: A Study of the Earned Income Tax Credit</p> <p>Economic interventions are increasingly recognised as a mechanism to address perinatal health outcomes among disadvantaged groups. In the US, the earned income tax credit (EITC) is the largest poverty alleviation programme. Little is known about its effects on perinatal health among recipients and their children. We exploit quasi-random variation in the size of EITC payments to examine the effects of income on perinatal health.</p> <p>http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ppe.12211/abstract</p>
<p>Factors associated with four or more antenatal care services among pregnant women: a cross-sectional survey in eight South Central Coast provinces of Vietnam</p> <p>In Vietnam, four or more antenatal care (ANC4+) visits/services among pregnant women have not been officially reported in the health system. Moreover, the factors associated with the use of ANC4+ services have not been studied in previous studies. In this study, we conducted an exploratory analysis to identify the rate of utilization of ANC4+ services and factors associated with use of ANC4+ services among pregnant women in rural areas of Vietnam.</p> <p>http://www.dovepress.com/factors-associated-with-four-or-more-antenatal-care-services-among-pre-peer-reviewed-article-IJWH</p>

Malaria in pregnancy: challenges for control and the need for urgent action

Malaria in pregnancy has a devastating effect on the health of mothers and their babies, and is an important cause of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity.¹ The greatest effect of malaria in pregnancy is concentrated in sub-Saharan Africa and is associated with *Plasmodium falciparum* infection. However, pregnant women are also at risk of *Plasmodium vivax* malaria. Although its burden seems to be lower than that of *P falciparum*, *P vivax* malaria is still associated with harmful consequences for maternal and infant health.

<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X%2815%2900041-8/fulltext>

Women's groups overcome emergency transport challenges in rural Madagascar

In Madagascar—where women face a 1 in 43 lifetime risk of maternal death—community mobilisation can improve maternal health outcomes. In rural areas, clinics and hospitals are located far from many villages, which means that transport in emergency situations is vital for reducing delays in getting women the care they urgently need. Simple community-led initiatives tackling such problems can have a great impact, as evidenced by the recent efforts of a women's group in the village of Andalambezo on Madagascar's remote southwest coast.

<http://www.mhtf.org/2015/07/31/womens-groups-overcome-emergency-transport-challenges-in-rural-madagascar/>

Cluster randomized controlled trial protocol: addressing reproductive coercion in health settings (ARCHES)

Women ages 16–29 utilizing family planning clinics for medical services experience higher rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) and reproductive coercion (RC) than their same-age peers, increasing risk for unintended pregnancy and related poor reproductive health outcomes. Brief interventions integrated into routine family planning care have shown promise in reducing risk for RC, but longer-term intervention effects on partner violence victimization, RC, and unintended pregnancy have not been examined.

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1472-6874/15/57>