

**The Health News Updates (July 27, 2015)**  
**From the desk of Reproductive Health Observatory**  
<http://www.rhobservatory.net/>

National	International
<b>Maternal Health</b>	
<p><b>PHFI, CAMTech concern over maternal &amp; child fatalities due to poor postpartum care</b></p> <p>The Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech) India and the Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) attribute the rising maternal and child fatalities to the poor postpartum care which need to be adequate to save from infection.</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.pharmabiz.com">www.pharmabiz.com</a>  Read more  <a href="http://www.pharmabiz.com/NewsDetails.aspx?aid=89197&amp;sid=1">http://www.pharmabiz.com/NewsDetails.aspx?aid=89197&amp;sid=1</a></p>	<p><b>Can You Guess Which Country Just Prevented Maternal HIV Transmission To Newborns And How?</b></p> <p>On July 1, the WHO announced that Cuba has become the very first country to receive the organization's validation for eliminating the transmission of HIV from mothers to their newborns. Cuba's achievement comes only five years after entering into a regional initiative that was aimed at eliminating the transmission of this virus and syphilis</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.inquisitr.com">www.inquisitr.com</a>  Read more  <a href="http://www.inquisitr.com/2208358/can-you-guess-which-country-just-prevented-maternal-hiv-transmission-to-newborns-and-how/">http://www.inquisitr.com/2208358/can-you-guess-which-country-just-prevented-maternal-hiv-transmission-to-newborns-and-how/</a></p>
<p><b>India May Attain its Targeted Maternal Mortality Ratio Soon</b></p> <p>NEW DELHI: The government said on Friday that India is "likely" to reach its targeted maternal mortality ratio under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) if the current compound rate of annual decline continues.</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.ndtv.com">www.ndtv.com</a>  Read more  <a href="http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-may-attain-its-targeted-maternal-mortality-ratio-soon-1200299">http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/india-may-attain-its-targeted-maternal-mortality-ratio-soon-1200299</a></p>	<p><b>Maternal mortality: Ulema offer unanimous support</b></p> <p>Eminent ulema of the country have unanimously offered their help and support in promoting the provision of birth spacing services thereby avoiding maternal deaths and creating a healthy and prosperous society.</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://tribune.com.pk/">http://tribune.com.pk/</a>  Read more  <a href="http://tribune.com.pk/story/913145/maternal-mortality-ulema-offer-unanimous-support/">http://tribune.com.pk/story/913145/maternal-mortality-ulema-offer-unanimous-support/</a></p>
<p><b>Not enough on the plate: Nutrition plan for poor mothers buried?</b></p> <p>A nutrition plan within the National Food Security Act meant for pregnant women and lactating mothers, a vulnerable group that skews India's hunger indices, looks quietly buried. It still runs as a trial in 52 districts, two years after the landmark legislation was signed into law.</p> <p>Source: Hindustan Times</p>	<p><b>South Africa: Lower coverage of maternal HIV testing among adolescents leading to higher mother-to-child transmission</b></p> <p>Adolescents have lower coverage of HIV testing and subsequent prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) services and significantly higher early vertical transmission rates compared with adults, according to findings from three South African national surveys, presented by Trisha Ramraj at the 7th South African AIDS Conference last month in Durban.</p>

<p>Read more  <a href="http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/nutrition-plan-for-poor-mothers-buried/article1-1372903.aspx">http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/nutrition-plan-for-poor-mothers-buried/article1-1372903.aspx</a></p>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.aidsmap.com">www.aidsmap.com</a>  Read more  <a href="http://www.aidsmap.com/page/2981306/">http://www.aidsmap.com/page/2981306/</a></p>
<p><b>Grim picture</b></p> <p>A survey conducted by the Women and Child Development Ministry and UNICEF in 28 States and Delhi presents a dismal picture of crucial maternal and child health indicators.</p> <p>Source: Frontline  Read more  <a href="http://www.frontline.in/the-nation/grim-picture/article7443629.ece">http://www.frontline.in/the-nation/grim-picture/article7443629.ece</a></p>	<p><b>WHO confirms women face sexual abuse even during childbirth!</b></p> <p>Childbirth is one of the most difficult times in a woman’s life but according to a study by World Health Organisation (WHO) women face both physical and sexual abuse in health facilities during childbirth. The authors assessed 65 published studies undertaken in 34 countries and identified seven areas of mistreatment and abuse.</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.thehealthsite.com">www.thehealthsite.com</a>  Read more  <a href="http://www.thehealthsite.com/news/who-confirms-women-face-sexual-abuse-even-during-childbirth/">http://www.thehealthsite.com/news/who-confirms-women-face-sexual-abuse-even-during-childbirth/</a></p>
<p><b>Letters: Healthy, wealthy &amp; wise</b></p> <p>The editorial, "A sick system" (July 21) rightly insists on an expansion of the public health care system. Over the last two decades we have criticised the issue of government presence in health care. The poor quality of government-run health care outfits has been used as an excuse to allow unbridled growth of private health care services. The private health care system is aimed at the rich. While the government-run health care services have been abused to allow the entry of the private sector, few have spared a thought for the poor. The cost of treatment has become prohibitive.</p> <p>Source: Business Standards  Read more  <a href="http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/letters-healthy-wealthy-wise-115072101363_1.html">http://www.business-standard.com/article/opinion/letters-healthy-wealthy-wise-115072101363_1.html</a></p>	<p><b>Maternal Health Heroes: Interview With H.E. Toyin Saraki</b></p> <p>I am excited to launch the Maternal Health Heroes Summer Series with an interview with H.E. Mrs. Toyin Saraki, founder of the Wellbeing Foundation Africa. Throughout the summer I will speak with some of the most notable maternal health advocates in the world ahead of the Global Maternal Newborn Health Conference that will be held in Mexico City between October 18 - 21, 2015. Follow the conversation at #MHSS.</p> <p>Source: Huffington Post  Read more  <a href="http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jennifer-james/maternal-health-heroes-in_b_7851716.html?ir=India&amp;adsSiteOverride=in">http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jennifer-james/maternal-health-heroes-in_b_7851716.html?ir=India&amp;adsSiteOverride=in</a></p>
<p><b>Form panel to probe maternal mortality cases, DC tells DHO</b></p> <p>Chairing a meeting of National Health Mission on Tuesday, the DC said that the family members of the seven deceased had alleged negligence by the hospital authorities for the deaths. The committee should speak to victims</p>	<p><b>SDGs to target universal health coverage</b></p> <p>Health is fundamental to human development. All people, regardless of social status, consistently rank good health as a top priority, and healthy people are critical to sustaining societies. It is therefore not surprising that four of the eight Millennium</p>

<p>family members and the doctors who treated to assess the cause of death and submit a report within a month.</p> <p>Source: Deccan Herald Read more <a href="http://www.deccanherald.com/content/490642/form-panel-probe-maternal-mortality.html">http://www.deccanherald.com/content/490642/form-panel-probe-maternal-mortality.html</a></p>	<p>Development Goals (MDGs) directly relate to health.</p> <p>Source: The Financial Express Read more <a href="http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2015/07/26/101523">http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/2015/07/26/101523</a></p>
<p><b>Health Schemes for Rural Children</b></p> <p>The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare , in a official release today, gave details of the provision of health care to children particularly in rural areas under the Rural Health Mission.</p> <p>The release disclosed that under Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakaram (JSSK) all pregnant women delivering in public health institutions to absolutely free and no expense delivery including Caesarean section.</p> <p>Source: Business Standard Read more <a href="http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/health-schemes-for-rural-children-115072100556_1.html">http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/health-schemes-for-rural-children-115072100556_1.html</a></p>	<p><b>Ethiopia: A tale of a desperate midwife</b></p> <p>In the left corner of the maternity ward of Dolo Ado health centre, MSF midwife Aisha Akello has an emotional discussion with a woman sitting on the hospital bed. Unlike the rest of the women in the modest ward, lying next to their new born babies in their respective beds, Rabiya Osman, 23, is all by herself.</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.msf.org">www.msf.org</a> Read more <a href="http://www.msf.org/article/ethiopia-tale-desperate-midwife">http://www.msf.org/article/ethiopia-tale-desperate-midwife</a></p>
<p><b>Maharashtra takes to daily SMS reports for analysis of health indicators</b></p> <p>PUNE: Crucial health indicators like the infant mortality rate (IMR) and the maternal mortality rate (MMR) will now be analysed and assessed on daily basis.</p> <p>Breaking away from the monthly paper-based evaluation system, the state health department has now adopted SMS-based reporting to improve timeliness in reporting specific, time-sensitive health metrics to bypass current bottlenecks in the flow of data.</p> <p>Source: Times of India Read more <a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Maharashtra-takes-to-daily-SMS-reports-for-analysis-of-health-indicators/articleshow/48138709.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/Maharashtra-takes-to-daily-SMS-reports-for-analysis-of-health-indicators/articleshow/48138709.cms</a></p>	<p><b>MDG5: Despite progress, improving maternal health is still a challenge</b></p> <p>Millennium Development Goal 5 is to "Improve maternal health" and is measured against a target to "Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio" and to "Achieve, by 2015, universal access to reproductive health"</p> <p>In 2013, 99% of world's 289,000 maternal deaths occurred in developing countries.</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://blogs.worldbank.org/">http://blogs.worldbank.org/</a> Read more <a href="http://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/mdg5-despite-progress-improving-maternal-health-still-challenge">http://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/mdg5-despite-progress-improving-maternal-health-still-challenge</a></p>
	<p><b>Getting Finance to Improve Women's and Children's Health Worldwide</b></p> <p>On a very wet and rainy day in Ethiopia last week, I</p>

spent an inspirational morning crowded into the Salem Health Centre. Despite the miserable weather, the Centre was overflowing with women who had, in some cases, travelled long distances to have their babies vaccinated. These mothers know that the vaccines will keep their children healthy, and pave the way for them to develop and achieve their full potentials.

Source: Huffington Post

Read more

[http://www.huffingtonpost.com/flavia-bustreo/getting-finance-to-improv\\_b\\_7821078.html?ir=India&adsSiteOverride=in](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/flavia-bustreo/getting-finance-to-improv_b_7821078.html?ir=India&adsSiteOverride=in)

### **Ebola casts a shadow over maternal health in Sierra Leone**

At the health post in Komrabai Station, a village in central Sierra Leone, a rickety birthing table stands in a dingy, damp room. The walls are covered in grime and blood. There's barely any equipment or drugs to perform a safe delivery.

Source: The Guardian

Read more

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jul/17/ebola-maternal-health-sierra-leone>

### **Updated data on immunization coverage published by WHO and UNICEF**

GENEVA, 16 July 2015 / PRN Africa / — The number of countries reaching and sustaining 90% coverage of children with routine life-saving vaccinations has doubled since 2000.

Updated data on the status of immunization worldwide in 2014 reveal that 129 countries, 6 more than in 2013, now immunize at least 90% of their children with the required 3 doses of diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis containing vaccines (DTP3).

Source: <http://en.starafrika.com/>

Read more

<http://en.starafrika.com/news/updated-data-on-immunization-coverage-published-by-who-and-unicef.html>

## Abortion International News

### How long can Northern Ireland's draconian abortion laws survive?

The 1967 Abortion Act was never extended to Northern Ireland, and women there still have to make the expensive and difficult journey to England to access this basic right.

Source: <http://www.newstatesman.com/>

Read more

<http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2015/06/how-long-can-northern-ireland-s-draconian-abortion-laws-survive>

### Florida judge blocks law forcing women to wait 24 hours for abortion

A Florida judge is blocking a new state law that requires women to wait 24 hours before getting an abortion. Chief circuit judge Charles Francis on Tuesday blocked the law one day before it was scheduled to take effect.

Source: The Guardian

Read more

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/30/abortion-florida-judge-blocks-law-forcing-women-wait-24-hours>

### Hardly Any Women Regret Having an Abortion, a New Study Finds

The conclusion comes after a three-year research period involving nearly 670 women of all social backgrounds

Ninety-five percent of women who have had abortions do not regret the decision to terminate their pregnancies, according to a study published last week in the multidisciplinary academic journal PLOS ONE.

Source: Time

<http://time.com/3956781/women-abortion-regret-reproductive-health/>

## Reproductive Health

**National**

**International**

**Funding crisis puts India's AIDS programme, and lives, at risk**

India's fight against AIDS is being jeopardised by a cut in social spending by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, with health workers being laid off and programmes to prevent the spread of the deadly disease curtailed.

Source: Reuters

Read more

<http://in.reuters.com/article/2015/07/24/aids-india-funding-idINKCNOPY1JU20150724>

**Women Prisoners Sterilized To Cut Welfare Costs In California**

In California, women prisoners were sterilised to cut welfare costs. The women prisoners said that though they were not forced to do this but doctors pressurized them to take decisions to undergo sterilisation.

Source: <http://tellmenow.com/>

Read more

<http://tellmenow.com/2014/04/women-prisoners-sterilized-to-cut-welfare-costs-in-california/>

**China on course to shed one-child policy**

The debate regarding the policy seems to be peaking in the wake of grim statistics showing demographic trends in China which have sharply unfavourable.

China could be on course to shed its one-child policy, allowing couples to have a second child, to counter the demographic trend of an aging society and growing labour shortages.

Source: The Hindu

Read more

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/world/china-on-course-to-shed-onechild-policy/article7458105.ece>

**Other Health News**

**National**

**Haryana to set up Nutrition Commission**

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Tuesday said the state government has started the process to set up a "State Nutrition Commission" and formulate a "State Nutrition Policy" to address malnutrition among children.

The chief minister was speaking at an event organised for the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' programme here.

Source: The Statesman

Read more

<http://www.thestatesman.com/news/delhi/haryana-to-set-up-nutrition-commission/77161.html#Qdchsc3YTEtw5AFJ.99>

**International**

**EPA Releases Updated Environmental and Public Health Indicators in Online Database**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released updated environmental and public health indicators in an online database, making information about the current and historical condition of the nation's environment and human health more accessible to the public. This is an online update to EPA's Report on the Environment. Users can explore 85 individual indicators-- on our air, water, land, human exposure, health and ecological condition-- using interactive graphs, tables, and maps, and download the data for each indicator.

	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.enn.com/">http://www.enn.com/</a>  Read more  <a href="http://www.enn.com/sci-tech/article/48798">http://www.enn.com/sci-tech/article/48798</a></p>
<p><b>Poor healthcare services in the Northeast alleged</b></p> <p>Shillong, July 15: North Eastern Council (NEC) members today rued poor healthcare services in the Northeast and underlined the need to enhance manpower, including setting up of more medical colleges in the region.</p> <p>Source: The Telegraph  Read more  <a href="http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150716/jsp/north-east/story_31801.jsp#.VbXS4Pmqgkp">http://www.telegraphindia.com/1150716/jsp/north-east/story_31801.jsp#.VbXS4Pmqgkp</a></p>	<p><b>WHO, UNAIDS plan to end AIDS with new testing guidelines</b></p> <p>Determined to end Human Immuno-deficiency Virus (HIV)/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) by 2030 and make more people living with the virus know their status, the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the Joint United Nation Programme on AIDS (UNAIDS) have released new consolidated guidelines on HIV testing services even as global partners in the Diagnostics Access Initiative (DAI) have joined with Roche Diagnostics to announce a 35 per cent reduction in the price for early infant diagnostic technologies.</p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.nrguardiannews.com">www.nrguardiannews.com</a>  Read more  <a href="http://www.nrguardiannews.com/2015/07/who-unaid-plant-to-end-aids-with-new-testing-guidelines/">http://www.nrguardiannews.com/2015/07/who-unaid-plant-to-end-aids-with-new-testing-guidelines/</a></p>
<p>Mumbai: TB again top killer disease, lifestyle ailments not far behind</p> <p>MUMBAI: Tuberculosis, hypertension and diabetes have emerged among the top killers of 2014-15, showing how maximum city is at the receiving end of both infectious and lifestyle diseases. Additionally, the 'State of Health of Mumbai' report released by NGO Praja Foundation on Tuesday, showed that a significant number of people from productive age-groups have died of absolutely treatable and preventable diseases.</p> <p>Source: Times of India  Read more  <a href="http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Mumbai-TB-again-top-killer-disease-lifestyle-ailments-not-far-behind/articleshow/48167396.cms">http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Mumbai-TB-again-top-killer-disease-lifestyle-ailments-not-far-behind/articleshow/48167396.cms</a></p>	
<p>Geographic Information System-mapping round the corner for TB patients</p> <p>In a bid to ensure that tuberculosis cases in the country do not escape detection, a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based mapping and tagging of TB patients, which will provide a real time and a dynamic way to represent disease information on maps, is on the anvil.</p> <p>Source: Asian Age  Read more  <a href="http://www.asianage.com/india/geographic-information-system-mapping-round-corner-tb-patients-344">http://www.asianage.com/india/geographic-information-system-mapping-round-corner-tb-patients-344</a></p>	

### इलाज के नाम पर ले रहे जान

जागरण संवाददाता, लखनऊ : छह दिन-पांच मरीजों की मौत। आरोप, इलाज में लापरवाही। कहीं सर्जन ने गलत ऑपरेशन कर युवक की जान ली, तो कहीं होम्योपैथ के डॉक्टर का एलोपैथ से इलाज करना मरीज पर भारी पड़ गया तो कहीं पर झोलाछाप डॉक्टरों के इलाज से मौतें हुईं। यह आलम राजधानी का है, जिसे मेडिकल हब बनाने की तैयारी चल रही है। 11 शहर के अस्पतालों में इलाज के नाम गोरखधंधा जारी है। यहां मरीजों का गलत इलाज कर खुलेआम आर्थिक शोषण भी किया जा रहा है। बावजूद स्वास्थ्य प्रशासन इन पर कार्रवाई से हिचक रहा है।

Source: <http://epaper.jagran.com/>

Read more

[http://epaper.jagran.com/ePaperArticle/27-jul-2015-edition-Lucknow-page\\_7-52618-3770-11.html](http://epaper.jagran.com/ePaperArticle/27-jul-2015-edition-Lucknow-page_7-52618-3770-11.html)

### SC asks govt to revisit new drug pricing policy

Expressing concern over expensive life-saving drugs and other essential medicines for major diseases, the Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the government to revisit its new National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012, for fixing prices of essential medicines in the country and also the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013 (DPCO 2013), notified by the government in May 2013.

Source: Financial Express

Read more

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/lifestyle/health/sc-asks-govt-to-revisit-new-drug-pricing-policy/101837/>

### Latest Articles on Maternal and Reproductive Health

Countdown to 2015: changes in official development assistance to reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health, and assessment of

progress between 2003 and 2012.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(15\)00057-1/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(15)00057-1/fulltext)

Tanzania's Countdown to 2015: an analysis of two decades of progress and gaps for reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health, to inform priorities for post-2015

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X\(15\)00059-5/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/langlo/article/PIIS2214-109X(15)00059-5/fulltext)

Impact of exposure to cooking fuels on stillbirths, perinatal, very early and late neonatal mortality - a multicenter prospective cohort study in rural communities in India, Pakistan, Kenya, Zambia and Guatemala

<http://www.mhnpjournal.com/content/1/1/18>

Does the Janani Suraksha Yojana cash transfer programme to promote facility births in India ensure skilled birth attendance? A qualitative study of intrapartum care in Madhya Pradesh

<http://www.globalhealthaction.net/index.php/gha/article/view/27427>

Maternal iron supplementation: one size does not fit all

Anaemia is the most common nutritional deficiency worldwide. The prevalence of anaemia in non-pregnant and pregnant African women (47.5% versus 57.1%) and Southeast Asian women (45.7% versus 48.2%) suggests that majority of reproductive age women at risk for anaemia reside in these countries. Anaemia in pregnant women from developing countries remains as a major public health concern despite a few decades of efforts through special policies and national programmes

<http://www.currentscience.ac.in/Volumes/109/02/0239.pdf>

Exposure to family planning messages and modern contraceptive use among men in urban Kenya, Nigeria, and Senegal: a cross-sectional study

<http://www.reproductive-health-journal.com/content/12/1/63>

Couple based family planning education: changes in male involvement and contraceptive use among married couples in Jimma Zone, Ethiopia

<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2458/15/682>