



Policy Round Up

Asia-Pacific Population and Development News

FEATURE AND ANALYSES



Students with red ribbons during an event to mark World AIDS Day, Hefei, Anhui Province, China. (Photo: Reuters through The Star Online)

Ending AIDS by 2030

GLOBAL: ANOTHER World AIDS Day has gone by. Routinely around Dec 1st every year, many fundraisers and advocacy events are held, many reports are published, and many government agencies reiterate their commitment to achieving a world where 90% of people who are HIV-infected will be diagnosed, 90% of people who are diagnosed will be on antiretroviral treatment (ART) and 90% of those who receive ART will be virally suppressed (that is, the 90-90-90 Target). This goal is set by UNAIDS to end the global AIDS epidemic by 2030. With barely 12 years to this deadline, AIDS-based research, together with policy responses and policy implementation, should be accelerated. ([Read More](#))

Iceland closes gender gap but violence against women remains

GLOBAL: For nine years in a row, the World Economic Forum has ranked Iceland as having the world's smallest gender-equality gap, and for about as long gender studies professor Gyda Margret Petursdottir has been asked how the Nordic island nation became such a paradise for women. Her reply: "It isn't." Iceland has a female prime minister and some of the world's strongest laws on workplace equality and equal pay. It also has one of Europe's highest per-capita levels of reported rapes, according to statistics agency Eurostat, although legal definitions differ from country to country, complicating comparisons. ([Read More](#))

The past, present, and future of HIV funding

GLOBAL: A Kaiser Family Foundation web briefing navigated the HIV/AIDS funding landscape, taking a look at trends over time, the latest data, and what we might expect in the future. When analyzing federal funding by the US government for HIV both home and abroad since the first AIDS cases were identified in 1981, "you notice a very dramatic, steep rise at different points, and generally a rise over time," said Jen Kates, vice president, director of global health and HIV policy, Kaiser Family Foundation. ([Read More](#))

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Women empowerment key to poverty eradication: Khattak

PAKISTAN: The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister, Pervez Khattak has said that "Women Empowerment" is a key to poverty eradication, building resilient societies, economies and promoting sustainable development. It is an essential component of human development and basic human right, he added. He was addressing the inauguration ceremony of "Women Empowerment Policy" at CM House, Peshawar. ([Read More](#))

Share leadership: Ambassador

PACIFIC: We want men and women to stand shoulder to shoulder and share leadership. "We want women to be seen as leaders and to become leaders," said Australia's Ambassador for Women and Girls, Dr Sharman Stone. Dr Stone met with participants of the Pacific Leadership and Governance Precinct's Future Leaders Program to discuss the qualities needed to overcome challenges and champion positive change in the public service, during her recent visit to Papua New Guinea. "You've got to and your champions – there will always be a Minister or a director of your department who is a champion and understands GESI (Gender Equity and Social Inclusion)." ([Read More](#))

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

Tongan youth leader hands out condoms to raise awareness

TONGA: A Tongan advocate for sex education has been handing out condoms around Tonga to start the discussion on safe sex practices. Ministry of Health figures show a high rate of teenage pregnancies this year, of around 30 births per 1000 girls. Joshua Sefesi holds sessions with men to educate them on equality and safe sexual practices and informs women about the support available to them. Mr Sefesi said Tonga is a conservative and religious nation, which makes the topic of safe sex taboo. ([Read More](#))

Banning condom ads like throwing baby out with bathwater

INDIA: India's reproductive health is the unsuspecting casualty in the recent tussle on the appropriateness of condom advertisements. The advisory issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday, December 11, directs television channels to restrict the broadcast of condom ads between 10 pm and 6 am. By banishing the promotion of condoms to the shadows of after-sunset 'adult' content, we run the hazard of killing a public health necessity in a country of over 1.3 billion. ([Read More](#))

AGEING

[Future of aged care a focus for Friends of Ageing and Aged Care](#)

AUSTRALIA: The forming of a forum for forward-thinking discussion on the future of aged care and the policy challenges and opportunities of our nations rapidly ageing population has been welcomed by industry leaders and peak bodies and is set to be celebrated early next year with an inaugural event. Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA) and Council on the Ageing (COTA) Australia are among the peak bodies who have welcomed the announcement of Parliamentary Friends of Ageing and Aged Care and the 'Loving Food at Any Age' event, which will be held on Valentines Day next year - 14 February 2018. ([Read More](#))

YOUTH

[Youth unemployment a priority for Fiji govt](#)

PACIFIC: The Fiji government says the priority of its National Employment Policy is to address youth unemployment. According to the Ministry of Employment, the current national unemployment rate is 5.5 per cent, while the youth unemployment rate is 18.1 per cent. The FBC reports the Deputy Secretary for Employment Viliame Baledrokadroka saying the unemployment among 15 to 24 year olds is a major issue. Mr Baledrokadroka said the policy would provide new opportunities for skills upgrading, leading to productive employment for young people. ([Read More](#))

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

[3 new ways to explore links between climate and sustainable development](#)

GLOBAL: The Paris Agreement on climate change and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development represent a global turning point towards a low-carbon, climate resilient, prosperous and equitable future. But for these ambitious agendas to flourish, there needs to be an integrated approach to implementation at the national level. Approaching implementation in an integrated way at the national level can enable sharing of information and data instead of creating unproductive silos, determine more cost-effective pathways for domestic and international finance, and avoid locking in high-emissions policies. ([Read More](#))

UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE

[Centre to advance universal health coverage](#)

INDIA: Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Monday said that the Government is committed towards advancing the agenda of Universal Health Coverage in the country and have therefore rolled out various initiatives to meet this aim. The Union Health Minister and Minister of State for Finance, S.P. Shukla at a function to observe Universal Health Coverage Day, 2017 today launched "LaQshya" - Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative, a safe delivery mobile application for health workers who manage normal and complicated deliveries in the peripheral areas, and also released the operational guidelines for Obstetric High Dependency Units (HDUs) and Intensive Care Units (ICUs). ([Read More](#))

DISCLAIMER: This policy round-up is a collection of news and feature articles related to population and development from media organizations around Asia and the Pacific. Any views or opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the position of AFPPD.