

The narrative is changing

The AHJ April issue has a range of articles on several interesting topics. The narrative is now shifting away from COVID-19 as the pandemic appears to be in retreat across much of Africa and the globe, but the opinion piece reminds us not to celebrate too early. In 2021, Africa recorded the fastest surge in COVID-19 cases globally and forecasters warn that the continent's vaccine coverage will not reach 70% until August 2024. The article highlights the challenges Africa has had in accessing vaccines that has left its vaccination coverage so low. It recommends that the best way forward is for Africa to build local vaccine manufacturing capacity.

Carol Natukunda and Elsie Kiguli-Malwadde report on the AFREhealth-CUGH Working Group Satellite meeting at the Consortium of Universities of Global Health Conference (CUGH 2022). Keynote speaker Dr Jimmy Volmink, a professor in the Department of Global Health and a former Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Stellenbosch University, South Africa, gave his reflections on global health in a post-pandemic world with a decolonised mindset.

This is followed by a stimulating article by Lawal et al from Nigeria describing a social culture practice called “omugwo” that helps prevent and manage Postpartum Depression (PPD). The concept of “Omugwo” and its benefits are well expounded.

Despite diverse efforts in the last two decades, the global health workforce (HWF) crisis persists, characterised by widespread shortages, maldistribution and poor working conditions. Francis Omaswa

thoughtfully narrates the challenges and describes the drivers of the HWF trends. He concludes by stating that the experience of COVID-19 pandemic that brought the world to a standstill gives the world an opportunity that should not be lost to revive and revitalize the global HWF movement.

The Infectious Disease Institute (IDI) has given the reader a glimpse into its success during the last 20 years. In the previous two issues, it has reflected on how it has built trust through its programmes and its governance and systems, this last article considers IDI's values, and how they have engendered trust in IDI by a wide range of stakeholders based on integrity, technical competence, resilience, and impact.

An article by Carol Natukunda on health insurance in Uganda gives a narrative of what steps Uganda has taken towards ensuring that its populace gets an insurance scheme. This information was collected at a stakeholders' engagement with Civil Society Organisations in Uganda.

This issue still demonstrates the importance of Women's health through two articles from UNICEF and its collaborators. The articles are on Ante Natal Care (ANC): one describes the enablers and barriers of ANC and infant and young child feeding practices in the West Nile region in Uganda; and another is on the use of partographs in the same region. A partograph is a tool for monitoring maternal and fetal health during active labour. Both these articles are based on the work that UNICEF does in the region to improve health outcomes.

Another article shows how the Scottish Surgical Colleges Supports global health by training surgeons. In this case,

they have supported Sudan to get its first paediatric surgeon.

Healthy Entrepreneur, an organization working in Uganda describes a Community Health Entrepreneurship (CHE) distribution Model that motivates voluntarily Community Health Workers (CHWs) by introducing profit as an incentive that empowers them. The model strives to ensure that rural people's health needs are met.

There is our usual medicine digest and quiz, plenty of news and advertisements.

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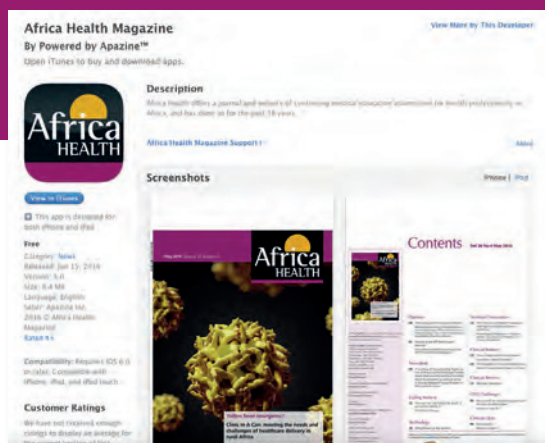
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