



Today's news

...in brief

Prepared by the Science & Public Affairs Unit

Source: **The New Vision**
Date: Friday, May 07, 2010
Country: Uganda

Source: **Media Global**
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Country: International Media Organization

Campaign to reduce mothers' deaths starts.....Pg3

The declining rate of maternal mortality in Uganda has prompted the Government and Non Governmental Organizations to launch a campaign for accelerated reduction of maternal, new-born and child mortality. Launching the campaign code named "Everyone", First Lady; Janet Museveni said the causes of maternal and infant mortality are preventable although inadequate access to antenatal care, inadequate knowledge on family planning and poor nutrition for pregnant mothers, are the leading causes. Uganda ranks 168th out of 189 countries in the world with the highest rates of child mortality according to the 2009 State of the World's Children report.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases resistant to treatment in Gulu District.....Pg8

Officials at Reproductive Health Uganda (RHU) have said that sexually transmitted diseases like Syphilis, Gonorrhoea, and Candida, have become resistant to treatment in Gulu District. RHU's Coordinator, Filder Anicia attributed the drug resistance to people having multiple relationships and getting re-infected, adding that some of them were self-medicating. She further lamented that the residents do not use family planning as they think it causes abnormalities in children.

Source: **The New England Journal of Medicine**
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Country: Scientific Journal

Information technology and global surveillance of cases of 2009 Influenza A (H1N1).....

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/362/18/1731>

The widespread adoption of increasingly sophisticated forms of information technology has paralleled the increase in rapid and far-reaching international travel. The emergence and global spread of the 2009 Pandemic Influenza A (H1N1) virus illustrated not only the hazards of an interconnected world, but also the powerful role of new methods for detecting, tracking, and responding to infectious diseases. Although formal reporting, surveillance, and response structures remain essential to protecting public health, a new generation of freely accessible, online, and real-time informatics tools for disease tracking are expanding the ability of public health professionals to detect weak signals across borders and to raise earlier warnings of emerging disease threats.

Dual burden of disease addressed at World Malaria Day.....

<http://mediaglobal.org/article/2010-05-06/dual-burden-of-disease-is-addressed-at-world-malaria-day>

On 25 April, World Malaria Day was an opportunity for the United Nations and global health organizations around the world to come together in their efforts to control the disease. However, organizations are recognizing the need to analyze the relationship between communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), and also the relationship between diseases like malaria and issues of development. NCDs like heart disease and cancer are not contagious and depend mostly on a person's lifestyle choices, environment, or genetics. By contrast, communicable diseases are infectious diseases like malaria and tuberculosis, resulting from bacteria, virus, parasites or pathogens. In the past decade, the overwhelming number of communicable diseases in sub-Saharan Africa has been the priority for aid organizations. However, recent findings suggest that the decline in communicable diseases have led to an increase in NCDs. While it is uncertain whether there is a definite correlation, health organizations are speculating that the two are related. In the 2008 World Health Statistics, the World Health Organization (WHO) reported that NCDs account for 60% of the world's deaths, the majority of them—80%—occurring in developing countries. Furthermore, WHO projected that NCDs will cause over three quarters of the world's deaths by 2030. In addition, malaria outbreaks have shown progress and HIV/AIDS prevalence has decreased steadily. Data indicates that HIV reached its peak at 6% around 2000 and fell to 5% by 2007. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), WHO, and the World Bank discussed last month, how these findings reveal a "dual burden" between NCDs and communicable diseases.