



In the News...

- September saw Mexico impacted by two catastrophic earthquakes, the first on September 7th, which caused significant damage across the country. Damage reported involved the collapse of a substantial number of houses and buildings in small cities and rural areas in the states of Oaxaca, Chiapas, Guerrero as well as other states in the southeast portion of the country. The second earthquake took place on September 19th, causing damage once again in the southeast region as well as in the central region. The most heavily affected areas were small cities and rural areas outside of Mexico City but Mexico City and other cities were not spared in the devastation. Hundreds of people were trapped inside toppled buildings and the death toll now stands at 480. Pharmaceutical wholesalers and distributors, along with other pharmaceutical companies, have made significant donations of products, first aid materials and direct economic contributions through different foundations and non-profit organizations. Shipments of pharmaceutical products have also been disbursed across the country to affected areas, while emphasizing communication and support with local, regional and national authorities. These pharmaceutical wholesalers and distributors have paid particular attention to maintaining continuous product distribution to reinforce safety, and the reliability of facilities and distribution systems.

- Walgreens and the UN Foundation have provided more than 20 million life-saving vaccines to children in developing countries around the world. Once again this year, for every flu shot or other immunization administered at a Walgreens Healthcare Clinic, at select Walgreens or Duane Reade locations, Walgreens will help to provide a vaccine to a child in need in conjunction with the UN Foundation's Shot@Life campaign. For more information visit https://www.walgreens.com/pharmacy/immunization/shot_at_life.jsp.

- The Fight the Fakes campaign against falsified medicines will hold their first ever Partners meeting on October 23rd at the offices of GIRP in Brussels, Belgium. The meeting will bring together the Campaign's partners to renew commitments, strategize on the Campaign's goals going forward, and discuss how to most effectively counter the impact of counterfeit medicines around the world. Look for an update with information on the results of this exciting meeting in the next issue of the IFPW Foundation Global Review newsletter. For more information on becoming a partner of the Fight the Fakes campaign, or for more information on its mission, please visit

- In an effort to assist with hurricane recovery efforts, The AmerisourceBergen Foundation has committed more than US\$100,000 to the communities that have suffered due to hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Of the US\$100,000 total, US\$50,000 in targeted donations was given to regional relief organizations in Houston and across the Caribbean that are focused on building healthy communities and improving patient outcomes. AmerisourceBergen has also committed to matching funds up to US\$100,000 for donations to the American Red Cross by customers and AmerisourceBergen associates.

- McKesson Foundation announced donations in cash, products, and equipment to victims of hurricanes Harvey and Irma, bringing their

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Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates Drop But There is Room for Improvement

(Source: Goalkeepers Report by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)

The 72nd United Nations General Assembly, held this past September in New York City, was a busy one for UN Secretary-General António Guterres and leaders from around the globe. Several events stood out, garnering worldwide attention. Included in the list were events on UN Reform; sexual exploitation and abuse; forced labor; modern slavery and human trafficking; the Security Council Meeting on peacekeeping reform; famine prevention and response; malaria elimination; and a Goalkeepers Event which addressed the UN's sustainable development goals (SDGs) as adopted in 2015. The Gates Foundation, who hosted the Goalkeepers Event, has committed to monitoring and assessing key points of progress toward successful completion of these SDGs by 2030, and will release a report each year documenting progress. Featured speakers at the 2017 Goalkeepers event featured former U.S. President Barack Obama, Bill and Melinda Gates, and Afghan student and Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Malala Yousafzai.

While several SDG-related challenges were included in the report, one noteworthy area of interest was around the successful lowering of infant and maternal mortality rates.

In the Gates Foundation report, Ethiopia is cited as a case study for maternal and child mortality. While 85 percent of Ethiopia's population resides in rural and remote areas, the largest number of healthcare providers is concentrated in urban areas. This disconnect in obstetric care has led to some of the worst child and maternal mortality rates in the world.

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IFPW GAVI Secondee Spotlight



IFPW has placed (seconded) a loaned executive from Imperial Health Sciences (IHS), an IFPW member based in South Africa, into the vaccine alliance Gavi's offices located in Geneva, Switzerland on a part-time basis. Derek Short is a seasoned IHS pharma executive with a career that included posts with manufacturers, NGOs and other companies. We have asked Derek to write a short summary of his days as a secondee to GAVI and he will be making future contributions on his activities and opportunities for members to become more engaged.

An Update From Derek Short..

My first week at GAVI would be described as a familiarisation week, which meant I met lots of people from across the organisation in order to better understand what roles each have and how their respective work all fits together. On top of this I was given access to content and presentations about GAVI and the Alliance's important work around the world in improving immunization rates and the availability of effective high-quality vaccines.

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Infant (cont.)...

In 2003, the Ethiopian Ministry of Health committed to improving these numbers with the launch of the Health Extension Program aimed at providing the necessary health care to the areas that need it the most. More than 40,000 health extension workers were trained, putting both knowledge and power in the hands of local people. In eight short years, child mortality has dropped by half. Maternal mortality also saw a noted drop, but at a much slower rate than infant mortality. Mother making the choice to give birth at home was cited as a contributing factor to this challenge. In an effort further improve maternal mortality rates, Health Extension Program staff began to include the concept of “model families” and advised the use of best practices such as sleeping under bed nets and the consistent use of latrines to their patients. The idea was that model families create model communities, which lead to model districts and model countries. From the “model family” concept the Women’s Development Army was conceived and put into action. Participants in the Women’s Development Army were born out of these model families who not only set an example, but helped other families adopt the same best practices.

Currently, one health extension worker covers 2,500 individuals or 500 families. While this is an improvement over the old system, it is still a far cry from the number of workers needed to develop personal connections with each person. Conversely the Women’s Development Army boasts 3 million members which equates to approximately one for every six families. The Army helps spread the word of using these best practices every day in places such as schools or churches, mosques or community centers, or simply person to person. Between 2011 and 2016, the number of women giving birth in facilities increased from 20 to 73 percent. This incredible success has not come easily, and challenges over cultural and religious disconnects have played a significant part in overcoming these challenges. To help bridge these divides between community and healthcare centers, religious leaders now go to health facilities to minister to patients. Another challenge: women were afraid to leave their villages on a stretcher because those who left on a stretcher never returned. To help alleviate this fear, a new stretcher was designed just for pregnant women, dispelling any concerns. Maternity waiting homes were also opened for women who were in their third trimester of pregnancy. This allows them to be close to needed medical facilities while they wait to go into labor. These significant changes are all thanks to the Women’s Development Army.

While significant progress has been made, work continues as government and health care staff strive to improve the quality of healthcare facilities so that they are uniform and offer the same excellent care. This means more equipment, more medicines and more skilled providers, which is an ongoing goal of the Ethiopian government.

For more information on the *Goalkeepers’ Goals*, and other areas in the report issued by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, please visit www.globalgoals.org/goalkeepers/datareport.

HAVE A STORY TO TELL?



The IFPW Foundation is looking for submissions for the **GLOBAL REVIEW Newsletter** that demonstrate your organization’s commitment to corporate social responsibility or other global health initiatives.

To submit an article for publication, please contact Christina Tucker at c.tucker@ifpwfoundation.org

In the News (cont.)...

total commitment to more than US\$600,000. Of the total amount, US\$185,000 will go directly to AmeriCares. McKesson employee contributions totaling more than US\$125,000 will also be matched. “Our hearts are with the people and communities dealing with the aftermath of these storms,” said John Hammergren, Chairman and CEO of McKesson, “We have employees and customers in many of the areas impacted by the hurricanes and are proud of how our employees have responded to these disasters.”

- Donor-funded free HIV medication is being diverted to the black market and sold by corrupt government officials and businesses in Nairobi. Among the essential medicines that have been stolen are antibiotics, including *Sulfran-DS*, a key treatment in preventing infections such as pneumonia and urinary tract infections in patients with compromised immune systems. A Business Daily revealed the purchase of the identified drugs from an Odeon pharmacy in Nairobi CBD. The owner of the pharmacy stated that he received a text message notification about availability of the consignment of drugs from Rosan Agencies. Further investigation showed Rosan to be a “briefcase pharmaceutical supplier” that is not registered by industry regulator, the Pharmacy and Poisons Board (PPB). Included in these purchased medicines was *Nise (Nimesulide)*, a pain and fever drug that has been banned worldwide in 2008 attributable to fatal liver damage.

(Sources: Kaiser Family Foundation, Nairobi News, Newsweek, Press Releases, and PBS Newshour)

IFPW GAVI Second Spotlight (cont.) ...

I will return to GAVI for the formal start of the secondment in 2 weeks. This week will follow the format of the first week in that there are more meetings scheduled, however this visit will also be interspaced with the normal starter processes like obtaining a security pass, establishing a GAVI email, creating workplans, etc.

One of the surprising facts about GAVI that became evident in my familiarisation week was the small size of the Secretariat compared to the large role it has, however the secret lies within its full title, GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance. For example, the UNICEF SD [Supply Division] is responsible for shipping the vaccines worldwide and have teams in country to manage the “last mile”, the WHO provides the technical standards for all Cold Chain Equipment and controls the list of essential vaccines amongst other activities, governments provide financing, etc.. The meetings this coming week therefore will also involve meeting key partners from UNICEF SD who are in Geneva for meetings at WHO, who would normally otherwise be at their base in Copenhagen.

My time here in Geneva will be spent supporting GAVI with its various initiatives to build capacity and efficiency within the Immunisation Supply Chain and to understand where potential gaps are that could offer an opportunity for the IFPW Foundation or an IFPW member to get involved in to share best practices, knowledge and innovations to strengthen the Supply Chain and also to raise awareness of the IFPW and its members’ capabilities both within GAVI but also with the broader global public health community and governments around the world. The latter could ultimately lead to establishing public-private partnerships and developing other innovative approaches to tackling today’s access challenges so stay tuned for future updates on these exciting opportunities!

Each quarter will feature an update from Derek and his very important work at GAVI.