



# COMMONWEALTH NURSES AND MIDWIVES FEDERATION

**e-News Vol.11 Issue 5 May 2018**

## Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum

Geneva Switzerland | 19 May 2018



The Commonwealth Health Professions Alliance (CHPA), an alliance of Commonwealth accredited health organisations, in partnership with the Commonwealth Foundation and Oxfam, hosted the annual Commonwealth Civil Society Policy Forum in Geneva on Saturday 19 May on the eve of the annual Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting. The topic discussed at the forum, *Universal health coverage: holding countries to account*, built on the symposium presented by the CHPA at the Commonwealth People's Forum in April.

A range of high profile speakers addressed three aspects of universal health coverage: financing, health workforce, and access to medicines and vaccines. The forum was privileged to hear from Dr Joe Kutzin from the WHO on UHC financing; Professor James Buchan and Dr Jim Campbell on health workforce; Ms Sengeeta Shashikant from the Third World Network, and Ms Salomé Meyer from Oxfam on access to medicines. The speakers' presentations can be accessed on the CHPA website, <http://www.chpa.co>.

A number of recommendations were generated from the CHPA symposium at the Commonwealth People's Forum and these recommendations were shared with civil society across the Commonwealth using an online survey. The recommendations were then finalised and presented to Commonwealth Health Ministers at their meeting Sunday 20 May. A copy of the recommendations can be downloaded from the CHPA website, <http://www.chpa.co>.

Through WHO and UN resolutions, and the SDGs, all Commonwealth countries have committed to pursuing universal health coverage. Health care personnel can use the recommendations to engage with their governments to monitor the implementation of universal health coverage in their own country.

## Commonwealth Health Ministers' Meeting

Geneva Switzerland | Sunday 20 May 2018

The CNMF participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting held Sunday 20 May 2018 in Geneva on the eve of the 71<sup>st</sup> World Health Assembly. The focus of the discussion was on reducing the incidence and cost to society and health systems of NCDs; and strategies to achieve UHC including sustainable financing, a sufficient health workforce; and access to quality medicines and vaccines. The communiqué from the meeting can be accessed at:

<http://thecommonwealth.org/sites/default/files/inline/FinalHealthMinisterialStatement2018.pdf>.

Similar to the communiqué from the CHOGM last month, the Ministerial statement provides an opportunity for health professionals and health workers to engage with their Ministries of Health and work with them to achieve the goals outlined. The theme for the May 2019 Commonwealth Health Ministers' meeting was recommended as - *Universal Health Coverage: Reaching the unreached and ensuring no one is left behind*.

## ECSACON CONFERENCE

3-7 September 2018 Nairobi Kenya

THE 6<sup>th</sup> QUADRIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING AND THE 13<sup>th</sup> SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE OF THE EAST, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA COLLEGE OF NURSING (ECSACON)

**Theme:** Nurses and Midwives responding to global agenda on sustainable development goals and universal health coverage.

**CALL FOR PARTICIPATION**  
Get Involved. Participate.

VENUE: Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya  
Dates: 3<sup>rd</sup> - 07<sup>th</sup> September 2018

The 6<sup>th</sup> Quadrennial General Meeting and the 13<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference of the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Nursing (ECSACON) will be held 3-7 September 2018 at the Safari Park Hotel, Nairobi, Kenya. The theme for the conference is: *Nurses and Midwives responding to global agenda on sustainable development goals and universal health coverage*. For more information go to: <http://ecsahc.org/news/1454/>



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## Medical AID Films

How much do you know about ZIKA?

Take the ZIKA Quiz

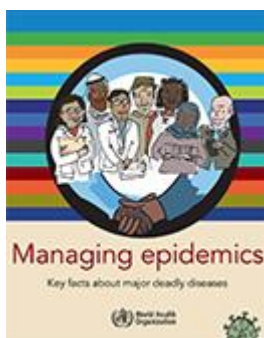
<http://www.medicalaidfilms.org/zikacrowdfunding/>



Zika hit the headlines in 2015 as the newest tropical borne viral infection. While adults don't usually suffer severe complications, the implications for pregnant women and their newborn babies are life-changing. Since its peak, the virus has subsided and the focus on Zika has declined. However, thousands of families have been affected and are suffering the aftermath of looking after a severely disabled child. Medical Aid Films have developed a quiz for you to test your knowledge about Zika.

## Managing Epidemics

The 21st century has already been marked by major epidemics. Old diseases - cholera, plague and yellow fever - have returned, and new ones have emerged - SARS, pandemic influenza, MERS, Ebola and Zika.



Published in May 2018, this new publication from the WHO provides concise and up-to-date knowledge on 15 infectious diseases that have the potential to become international threats, and gives tips on how to respond to each of them.

The diseases covered are: Ebola virus disease, lassa fever, Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever, yellow fever, Zika, chikungunya, avian and other zoonotic influenza, seasonal influenza, pandemic influenza, Middle-East respiratory syndrome (MERS), cholera, monkeypox, plague, leptospirosis and meningococcal meningitis. The resource can be downloaded free from: <http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/managing-epidemics/en/>.

## Healthy Start Campaign

At the recent World Health Assembly, WaterAID released a new report, *Transforming health systems: the vital role of water, sanitation and hygiene*.



This report should be essential reading for all health workers and Ministry of Health personnel. The report reveals that 38% of health facilities in low and middle income countries do not have access to a water source; 35% do not have soap for hand washing; and 19% do not have adequate sanitation facilities. Universal Health Coverage cannot be achieved when so many health care facilities lack clean water, adequate sanitation and good hygiene.

Improving water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) will result in improved patient care, improved working conditions and occupational health for health workers, reduced neonatal and maternal morbidity and mortality, and a reduced risk of health care acquired infections. The report and a short film can be downloaded from:

[www.washmatters.wateraid.org/transforming-health-systems](http://www.washmatters.wateraid.org/transforming-health-systems).

