

Maggie A Montgomery and Jamie Bartram (82) challenge the utility of surgery and antibiotics for the elimination of blinding trachoma in the absence of adequate environmental measures.

International cooperation and assistance remain crucial for the success of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, says Haik Nikogosian (83) on the fifth anniversary of the treaty.

United States of America

Halving coronary deaths

Simon Capewell et al. (120–130) propose scenarios to reduce cardiovascular mortality.

Pakistan

Politics and polio

The resurgence of the disease is jeopardizing worldwide efforts to eradicate the disease, writes Sania Nishtar (159–160).

Thailand

Health finance

Thailand tries to ensure costly renal replacement therapy does not threaten universal health coverage, reports Apiradee Treerutkuarkul (84–85).

Bangladesh

Which barrier is best?

Amnesty LeFevre et al. (104–112) examine the cost-effectiveness of skin creams for preterm infants to prevent infections.

United Arab Emirates

Weighty problems

Consumption of fast food and sugary drinks has caused a rise in obesity and diabetes, reports Michael Reid (86–87).

Uganda

Expiry of essential medicines

Josephine Katabaazi Nakyanzi et al. (154–158) assess how to improve the pharmaceuticals supply chain.

Sri Lanka

Health and human rights

Savitri Goonesekere (88–89) tells Sarah Cumberland how the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child works as a powerful accountability measure.

Brazil

Ivermectin for head lice

Daniel Pilger et al. (90–96) find that mass treatment may reduce this scourge of childhood.

India

Vaccinations at the right time

Shankar Prinja et al. (97–103) assess strategies to ensure children are immunized at the appropriate age.

Australia

Preventing pneumonia

KF O'Grady et al. (139–146) evaluate the effectiveness of the 7-valent pneumococcal conjugate vaccine in indigenous infants.

Warning lights on maternal death

João Paulo Souza et al. (113–119) review childbirth records in eight Latin American countries.

Why do mothers die?

Suzanne Cross et al. (147–153) highlight the need to classify causes of maternal death in developing countries.

Who to believe?

SV Subramanian et al. (131–138) study the links between education and self-rated health assessments.