In the editorial section, Stephen B Kennedy and Richard A Nisbett (2) ask for a more tailored response to the Ebola virus disease outbreak in western Africa. Michel Sidibé and James Campbell (3) argue that this outbreak is one manifestation of a crisis in the global health workforce. Suzanne R Hill et al. (4) suggest that a global forum should consider the evidence for – and prices of – new drugs.

In the news section, Fiona Fleck and Ana Lesher (7–8) report on efforts to develop a vaccine against the Ebola virus. Sergey Boytsov (9–10), director of the National Research Center for Preventive Medicine of the Russian Ministry of Health, describes national plans to prevent and treat noncommunicable diseases.

Ghana
Too many reporting requirements?
Sarah Wood Pallas et al. (11–18) ask how the country has adapted to donor proliferation.

Getting evidence into policies on ageing
Ildene Araujo de Carvalho et al. (47–51) describe one approach to knowledge translation.

China
Preventing transmission of three diseases
Ai-Ling Wang et al. (52–56) study the integration of HIV, syphilis and hepatitis B prevention programmes.

Myanmar
How reliable are the results?
Latt Latt Kyaw et al. (42–46) assess laboratory tests for HIV infections.

Causes of death in the first month of life
Shefali Oza et al. (19–28) produce neonatal cause-of-death estimates for 194 countries.

Health care for teenagers
Catriona Waddington and Claudia Sambo (57–59) discuss how universal coverage schemes should account for adolescents.

Social reasons for better outcomes
Jean B Nachega et al. (29–41) look for associations between employment and adherence to HIV treatment.

Counting obstetric fistula
Özge Tunçalp et al. (60–62) consider ways to determine incidence and prevalence.