



**N° 57 - August 2008**

## **EVENTS**

### **USA – Message from the National Directory for Drug Take-Back and Disposal Program**

*"The first edition of the National Directory for Drug Take-Back and Disposal Program will be presented at the 2008 International Symposium on Pharmaceuticals in the Home and Environment: Catalysts for Change, South Portland, ME, November 10-11, 2008. An online survey will be available on the Community Medical Foundation website soon. You can access the survey file online through the Benzodiazepine Study Group website at:*

*<http://www.mainebenzo.org/documents/AnnualSurveyofTakeBackandDisposalPrograms.pdf>*

*Please complete the survey and mail or fax it to: Community Medical Foundation for Patient Safety, 6800 West Loop South, Suite 190, Bellaire, TX 7740, [www.comofcom.com](http://www.comofcom.com), Fax: 832-778-7777"*

Selected films will be screened during the annual film festival at the Symposium on the evening of November 10<sup>th</sup>. To submit your film, please contact conference coordinator Jason Charland at [jason.charland@umit.maine.edu](mailto:jason.charland@umit.maine.edu). To view the Call for Films flyer, click on:

<http://www.mainebenzo.org/documents/2008callforfilmsflyer.pdf>

The annual one week **WHO/UNICEF Technical Briefing Seminar** on Essential Medicines Policies will be organized at WHO headquarters in Geneva from 17 to 21 November 2008.

Further details at <http://healthtech.who.int/tbs>

The closing date for submission of applications is **19 September 2008**.

This year, **UNICEF is publishing the first annual edition for the Asia-Pacific region**, which encompasses half of the world's population, under the title of *The State of Asia-Pacific's Children 2008*. The analysis underlines a fundamental truth that is becoming increasingly clear: global attainment of the health-related MDGs will depend, in no small part, on India's achievements in improving health, nutrition, water and sanitation, education and child protection, gender equality and women's empowerment in the coming years. India alone accounts for one fifth of under-five deaths worldwide, with 2.1 million in 2006. But the experience of China and India, in recent years, also provides a source of

hope. China, the world's most populous country, managed to reduce its under-five mortality rate by 80 per cent between 1970 and 2006; the corresponding decline for India was 60 per cent over the same period.

All these gains suggest that remarkable progress is possible when evidence, sound strategies, sufficient resources, political will and an orientation towards results are consciously harnessed to improve children's lives.

[http://www.unicef.fr/mediastore/FCKeditor/soap\\_latest - 4 Aug 08.pdf](http://www.unicef.fr/mediastore/FCKeditor/soap_latest_-_4_Aug_08.pdf)

### **Mexico City- XVII International AIDS –3-8 August 2008:**

*"In poor countries – as well as some rich ones – we must work to put in place the long term building blocks of social protection"* said M. Michel Kazatchkine, Executive Director of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, who believes also that *"Mexico marked the point when the tiresome and damaging debate between disease programs and broader health systems strengthening is finally over"* as the fight against these diseases requires obviously strong and sustainable health systems.

In ten years, budgets allocated to fight AIDS increased from 500 million to 10 billion (2007).

However, *"We should be deeply concerned that with less than two years to go before our deadline for universal access, the G8 has committed little more than a third of the resources that it has promised to deliver by 2010"* underlined M. Michel Kazatchkine.

According with UNAIDS estimate, needs will be 42 billion in 2010 and 54 billion in 2015.

[http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/media\\_center/press/pr\\_080811.asp](http://www.theglobalfund.org/en/media_center/press/pr_080811.asp)

## **MISSIONS**

### **Southern Sudan :**

First steps for the construction of a pharmaceutical warehouse in Juba under UNDP contract and new 12-months program of supplying, training and technical advice to medical partners funded by ECHO-Humanitarian Aid Department of the European Commission.

Estimated populations benefiting of these programs are around 1 million in 10 states\* with 500 health agents trained.

*\*Upper Nile, Jonglei, Eastern, Western and Central Equatoria, Unity, Warab, Western and Northern Bahr el Ghazal, Lakes and Blue Nile*

### **Chad :**

A new emergency program began on 1st August in Chad for the displaced people and resident population of 5 places in Assoungou health district (Alacha, Arkoum, Borota Goundiang and Goungour). This 6-months program is co-financed by the French Délégation à l'Action Humanitaire and the Development European Fund.

Planned activities are: rehabilitations and equipment of health facilities, medicine and medical supplies, training of health agents, supervision and participation in health education to the population by their community health agents.

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