



## Selected Resources on Health and Human Rights

Compiled by GIZ project "Realizing Human Rights in Development Cooperation"

<http://www.gtz.de/human-rights>

January 2011

### I. Human rights in German development policy

#### **BMZ (2010), Human rights in practice – Fact sheets on a human rights-based approach in development cooperation**

Collection of 2-page factsheets that explain what the human rights-based approach in development cooperation means in general and for all priority sectors of German development cooperation. The factsheet on the health sector is on pages 8-9.

[http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human\\_rights/BMZ\\_Information\\_Brochure\\_7\\_2010e.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human_rights/BMZ_Information_Brochure_7_2010e.pdf)  
(English)

[http://www.bmz.de/de/publikationen/themen/menschenrechte/BMZ\\_Informationsbroschuere\\_07\\_2010.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/de/publikationen/themen/menschenrechte/BMZ_Informationsbroschuere_07_2010.pdf)  
(German)

#### **BMZ (2009), Health and Human Rights, BMZ Special 165, Bonn.**

This BMZ Special on Health and Human Rights complements the BMZ Sector Strategy Health in German Development Policy, which establishes that the realization of the human right to the highest attainable standard of health is a primary goal of German development policy in the health sector. It explains the Ministry's position on the subject.

[http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human\\_rights/spezial165.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human_rights/spezial165.pdf) (English)

<http://www.bmz.de/de/publikationen/themen/menschenrechte/spezial162pdf.pdf> (German)

[http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human\\_rights/Esp164.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human_rights/Esp164.pdf) (Spanish)

[http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human\\_rights/spezial163\\_pdf.pdf](http://www.bmz.de/en/publications/topics/human_rights/spezial163_pdf.pdf) (French)

### II. Human rights reference documents for the right to health

#### **UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2000): General Comment No. 14 on the Right to the highest attainable standard of health E/C.12/2000/4.**

The general comments are interpretations of human rights standards by the treaty bodies. The general comment No. 14 details the state obligations and the core content of the right to health, and as such is an important reference document for the right to health.

[http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/\(Symbol\)/40d009901358b0e2c1256915005090be?Opendocument](http://www.unhcr.ch/tbs/doc.nsf/(Symbol)/40d009901358b0e2c1256915005090be?Opendocument)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), article 12 (right to health)

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/law/cescr.htm>

All States parties are obliged to submit regular reports to the Committee on how the rights are being implemented. The Committee examines each report and addresses its concerns and recommendations to the State party in the form of "concluding observations".

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cescr/sessions.htm>

#### **Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health**

The Special Rapporteur carries out country visits to report on the status of the progressive realization of the right to health.

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/health/right/visits.htm>

He further publishes annual reports on a specific issue related to health, such as the 2006 report on A human rights-based approach to health indicators (E/CN.4/2006/48)

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/health/right/annual.htm>

### III. More on the right to health

**World Health Organization/OHCHR (2007), The Right to Health, Geneva.**

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the WHO have issued a 2-page fact sheet on the right to health. Three aspects of the right to health are being dealt with: the right's enshrinement in international and regional human rights treaties, its dimensions and finally the right's implementation.

[http://www.who.int/hhr/Right\\_to\\_health-factsheet.pdf](http://www.who.int/hhr/Right_to_health-factsheet.pdf)

**OHCHR/WHO (2007), The Right to Health, Factsheet Nr. 31, Geneva.**

For practitioners with a more profound interest the OHCHR and the WHO have issued a more comprehensive 50-page fact sheet on the right to health. After a conceptual clarification of what the right to health is, the fact sheet explains how the right to health applies to specific groups, what are the state obligations and the responsibility of others actors towards the right to health and how the right to health can be monitored.

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/Factsheet31.pdf>

**University of Essex/Human Rights Centre, International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organisations (2007), Our Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health**

This 8-page briefing provides a short and concise introduction to the right to the highest attainable standard of health. It also gives brief examples of how to apply key human rights principles such as accountability and participation while implementing this right.

[http://www.essex.ac.uk/human\\_rights\\_centre/research/rth/docs/REVISED\\_MAY07\\_RtH\\_8pager\\_v2.pdf](http://www.essex.ac.uk/human_rights_centre/research/rth/docs/REVISED_MAY07_RtH_8pager_v2.pdf)

**Clapham, Andrew with Mary Robinson, Claire Mahon and Scott Jerb (eds.) (2009), Realizing the Right to Health, Swiss Human Rights Book Vol. 3, Zurich.**

This recent volume includes essays written by academics, practitioners and human rights activists on various topics related to the right to health. The web page provides an abstract and the table of contents with downloads of all articles.

[http://www.swisshumanrightsbook.com/SHRB/shrb\\_03.html](http://www.swisshumanrightsbook.com/SHRB/shrb_03.html)

**Potts, Helen (2008), Accountability and the right to the highest attainable standard of health, University of Essex/ Human Rights Centre, Colchester.**

A comprehensive but concise paper that explains what accountability means for the health sector. After a brief review of the right to the highest attainable standard of health, it explains the process of accountability and provides examples of various accountability mechanisms. It then describes the types of remedies that should be available to rights-holders, gives examples of accountability in action and provides a list of key factors required for accountability in the context of the right to health.

[http://www.essex.ac.uk/human\\_rights\\_centre/research/rth/docs/HRC\\_Accountability\\_Mar08.pdf](http://www.essex.ac.uk/human_rights_centre/research/rth/docs/HRC_Accountability_Mar08.pdf)

**Potts, Helen (2009), Participation and the right to the highest attainable standard of health, University of Essex/ Human Rights Centre, Colchester.**

The monograph is an equally accessible and practical introduction to the process of participation in the health sector; the need for a variety of participatory mechanisms; the relationship between fairness and transparency of the process; and the relationship between participation and accountability.

[http://www.essex.ac.uk/human\\_rights\\_centre/research/rth/docs/Participation.pdf](http://www.essex.ac.uk/human_rights_centre/research/rth/docs/Participation.pdf)

**World Health Organization (2005), Human Rights, Health and Poverty Reduction Strategies, Health and Human Rights Publications Series, Issue No. 5, Geneva.**

This brochure includes numerous brief examples which show how human rights principles can be integrated in the formulation of poverty reduction strategies. It highlights the synergetic effects of successful practices in public health care, human rights principles and sound development cooperation.

[http://www.who.int/hhr/news/HHR\\_PRS\\_19\\_12\\_05.pdf](http://www.who.int/hhr/news/HHR_PRS_19_12_05.pdf)

**World Health Organization (2002), 25 Questions on Health and Human Rights, Health and Human Rights Publication Series, Issue No.1, Geneva.**

WHO's first publication of its series on health and human rights. It very briefly answers the most important questions on this topic and explores the linkages between human rights and health.

<http://www.who.int/hhr/NEW37871OMSOK.pdf>

### **UNFPA (2010), A Human Rights-Based Approach to Programming – Practical Information and Training Materials**

This Manual provides step-by-step guidance on how to apply a culturally sensitive, gender-responsive, human rights-based approach to programming in each of UNFPA's three core areas of work: population and development, reproductive health, and gender. It also covers how to apply such an approach in the context of a humanitarian emergency. Very useful is also the accompanying checklist. <http://www.unfpa.org/public/op/preview/home/publications/pid/4919>

### **GTZ et al. (2008), Measuring the fulfilment of human rights in maternal and neonatal health using WHO tools (in two cities and two districts in Indonesia)**

This report looks at discrepancies on the implementation of laws, policies and its service provision at province and district level related to health service in maternal and newborn health linked to issues of human right fulfilment. It includes recommendations for action to be taken by relevant stakeholders for improvement.

<http://www2.gtz.de/dokumente/bib/gtz2010-0134en-maternal-health.pdf>

### **Website of the WHO Health and Human Rights Team**

The website provides information on current activities of the WHO Health and Human Rights Team, links to documents and publications on human rights and health as well as to international and regional human rights instruments.

<http://www.who.int/hhr/en/>

### **Website of the Human Rights Centre, Right to Health Unit, University of Essex**

The website provides information on the work that Professor Paul Hunt has carried out in his capacity as UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health, as well as on the work of the Human Rights Centre that works on a wide range of issues related to health.

[http://www.essex.ac.uk/human\\_rights\\_centre/research/rth/](http://www.essex.ac.uk/human_rights_centre/research/rth/) See in particular the publications site:

[http://www.essex.ac.uk/human\\_rights\\_centre/research/rth/projects.aspx](http://www.essex.ac.uk/human_rights_centre/research/rth/projects.aspx)

### **Website of the International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organisations**

The website provides information resources on health and human rights as well as links to several NGOs active in the field of human rights and health.

<http://www.ifhhro.org/>

### **Website of the Health and Human Rights Journal**

Health and Human Rights is an open online journal dedicated to scholarship and praxis that advance health as issue of fundamental human rights and social justice. It provides a forum for academics, practitioners, and activists from public health, human rights and related fields to explore how rights-based approaches to health can be implemented in practice.

<http://www.hhrjournal.org/index.php/hhr>

### **UN Practitioners Portal on HRBA Programming – Resources on Health**

A growing collection of resources on applying a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in the health sector.

[http://www.hrbaportal.org/?page\\_id=192](http://www.hrbaportal.org/?page_id=192)