

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Appendix 1. Search strings.

Ovid MEDLINE

Database: Ovid MEDLINE(R) Daily Update <February 04, 2020>, Ovid MEDLINE(R) Epub Ahead of Print and In-Process & Other Non-Indexed Citations <February 04, 2020>

Search Strategy:

-
- 1 conference*.mp. (11366)
 - 2 exp Congresses as Topic/ or congress*.mp. or exp Congress/ (5783)
 - 3 summit*.mp. (768)
 - 4 symposi*.mp. (3486)
 - 5 forum*.mp. (3016)
 - 6 assembly.mp. (40983)
 - 7 meeting*.mp. (24779)
 - 8 seminar*.mp. (1025)
 - 9 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 (86949)
 - 10 contribut*.mp. (195718)
 - 11 delegat*.mp. (1020)
 - 12 panel*.mp. (21933)
 - 13 attend*.mp. (25657)
 - 14 participat*.mp. (73469)
 - 15 present*.mp. (687684)
 - 16 represent*.mp. (177834)
 - 17 speaker*.mp. (3227)
 - 18 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 (1043450)
 - 19 exp Developing Countries/ or developing countr*.mp. (9776)
 - 20 lmic*.mp. (1545)
 - 21 "low and middle income".mp. (3869)
 - 22 ((low or lower or middle) adj5 (resource or income)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] (13623)
 - 23 less wealthy.mp. (19)
 - 24 (limited resource* or limited-resource*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, original title, name of substance word, subject heading word, floating sub-heading word, keyword heading word, organism supplementary concept word, protocol supplementary concept word, rare disease supplementary concept word, unique identifier, synonyms] (1720)
 - 25 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 (24196)
 - 26 9 and 18 and 25 (454)

Embase

Database: Embase <1974 to 2020 Week 05>

Search Strategy:

- 1 conference*.ti,ab. (89612)
- 2 congress*.mp. (51668)
- 3 summit*.mp. (5867)
- 4 symposi*.mp. (48916)
- 5 forum*.mp. (21970)
- 6 assembly.mp. (216562)
- 7 meeting*.mp. (187564)
- 8 seminar*.mp. (12456)
- 9 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 (603549)
- 10 contribut*.mp. (1641332)
- 11 delegat*.mp. (9311)
- 12 panel*.mp. (218567)
- 13 attend*.mp. (266707)
- 14 participat*.mp. (713291)
- 15 present*.mp. (5735387)
- 16 represent*.mp. (1452138)
- 17 speaker*.mp. (20673)
- 18 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 (8759084)
- 19 exp Developing Country/ or developing countr*.mp. (133905)
- 20 lmic*.mp. (5381)
- 21 "low and middle income".mp. (14784)
- 22 ((low or lower or middle) adj5 (resource or income)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword, floating subheading word, candidate term word] (82248)
- 23 less wealthy.mp. (162)
- 24 (limited resource* or limited-resource*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword, floating subheading word, candidate term word] (11875)
- 25 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 (219006)
- 26 9 and 18 and 25 (3645)

PsycINFO

Database: PsycINFO <1806 to January Week 4 2020>

Search Strategy:

-
- 1 conference*.mp. (42444)
 - 2 congress*.mp. (7903)
 - 3 summit*.mp. (839)
 - 4 symposi*.mp. (7632)
 - 5 forum*.mp. (9256)
 - 6 assembly.mp. (5650)
 - 7 meeting*.mp. (51162)
 - 8 seminar*.mp. (7965)
 - 9 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7 or 8 (124291)
 - 10 contribut*.mp. (398839)
 - 11 delegat*.mp. (2589)
 - 12 panel*.mp. (26206)

- 13 attend*.mp. (96520)
 14 participat*.mp. (267290)
 15 present*.mp. (1028231)
 16 represent*.mp. (321910)
 17 speaker*.mp. (27181)
 18 10 or 11 or 12 or 13 or 14 or 15 or 16 or 17 (1803496)
 19 exp Developing Countries/ or developing countr*.mp. (13355)
 20 lmic*.mp. (826)
 21 "low and middle income".mp. (2649)
 22 ((low or lower or middle) adj5 (resource or income)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures, mesh] (30692)
 23 less wealthy.mp. (73)
 24 (limited resource* or limited-resource*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, heading word, table of contents, key concepts, original title, tests & measures, mesh] (3034)
 25 exp Middle Income Level/ (691)
 26 exp Lower Income Level/ (8569)
 27 19 or 20 or 21 or 22 or 23 or 24 or 25 or 26 (45372)
 28 9 and 18 and 27 (891)

CINAHL

Query Limiters/Expanders

S1	(MH "Congresses and Conferences") OR "conference**"	126,487
S2	"congress**"	116,910
S3	"summit**"	3,293
S4	"symposi**"	10,365
S5	"forum**"	17,223
S6	"assembly"	5,835
S7	(MH "Meetings+") OR "meeting**"	70,361
S8	(MH "Seminars and Workshops+") OR "seminar**"	18,234
S9	S1 OR S2 OR S3 OR S4 OR S5 OR S6 OR S7 OR S8	239,054
S10	"contribut**"	202,907

S11	"delegat**"	5,972
S12	"panel**"	31,540
S13	"attend**"	68,179
S14	"participat**"	210,952
S15	"present**"	629,639
S16	"represent**"	157,552
S17	"speaker**"	8,196
S18	S10 OR S11 OR S12 OR S13 OR S14 OR S15 OR S16 OR S17	1,138,002
S19	(MH "Developing Countries") OR "developing countr**"	26,029
S20	"lmic**"	1,648
S21	"low and middle income"	6,554
S22	((low or lower or middle) N5 (resource or income))	33,357
S23	"less wealthy"	46
S24	"limited resource**"	2,895
S25	"limited-resource**"	2,895
S26	(MH "Low and Middle Income Countries")	1,064
S27	S19 OR S20 OR S21 OR S22 OR S23 OR S24 OR S25 OR S26	58,363
S28	S9 AND S18 AND S27	1,056

Web of Science

TOPIC: (Conference* or congress* or summit* or symposi* or forum* or assembly or meeting* or seminar*) **AND TOPIC:** (Contribut* or delegate* or panel* or attend* or participat* or present* or represent* or speaker*) **AND TOPIC:** (("developing countr*" or LMIC* or "low and

middle income" or "resource-limited" or "resource limited" or "less wealthy" or ((low or lower or middle) NEAR/5 (resource or income))))

Indexes=SCI-EXPANDED, SSCI, A&HCI, CPCI-S, CPCI-SSH, ESCI Timespan=All years

Scopus

(TITLE (conference* OR congress* OR summit* OR symposi* OR forum* OR assembly OR meeting* OR seminar*) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (contribut* OR delegate* OR panel* OR attend* OR participat* OR present* OR represent* OR speaker*) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY (("developing countr*" OR lmic OR "low and middle income" OR "resource-limited" OR "resource limited" OR "less wealthy" OR ((low OR lower OR middle) W/5 (resource OR income)))))

African Journals Online

(Conference* or congress* or summit* or symposi* or forum* or assembly or meeting* or seminar*) AND (Contribut* or delegate* or panel* or attend* or participat* or present* or represent* or speaker*)

WHOLIS

(Conference* or congress* or summit* or symposi* or forum* or assembly or meeting* or seminar*) AND (Contribut* or delegate* or panel* or attend* or participat* or present* or represent* or speaker*)

Appendix 2. Inclusion and exclusion criteria for the systematic review.

	<i>Inclusion</i>	<i>Exclusion</i>
Point of Interest	<i>Barriers to access, attendance or participation</i>	No data on barriers to access, attendance or participation
Setting	Global health conferences (as defined by Koplan <i>et al.</i>)	Conference on topics other than global health; conferences where location was not specified
Population	Attendees, speakers, panelists	No data on attendance
Study design	All study designs and books and book chapters, reports, commentaries, letters, editorials published in academic journals, dissertations and conference proceedings	Articles in non-academic journals such as daily newspapers describing events related to visa rejections were not included

Appendix 3. First author, year of publication, first author's country affiliation, type of article and global health field described for each article included in the systematic review.

Author	Year published	First author's country affiliation	Type of article	Global health field
Strasser	1997	Australia	Descriptive	Rural health
Abdool Karim	2001	USA	Opinion piece	HIV/AIDS
James	2002	N/A	Newsletter	HIV/AIDS
IAS	2004	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
McConachy	2005	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
WHO	2006	Switzerland	Conference report	Nutrition
Alsirafy	2007	Egypt	Abstract	Oncology
IAS	2007	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
IAS	2008	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
IAS	2009	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
Masmoudi	2009	Tunisia	Retrospective	Oncology
Singh	2009	N/A*	Descriptive	HIV/AIDS
IAS	2009	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
IAS	2010	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
Deckelbaum	2011	Canada	Scientific Letter	Global Surgery
IAS	2011	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
Le Duc	2011	USA	Retrospective	Infectious diseases
Singh	2011	United Kingdom	Descriptive	HIV/AIDS
IAS	2012	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
IAS	2013	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
Rodriguez-Morales	2013	Colombia	Scientific abstract	Infectious diseases
van der Rijt	2013	USA	Retrospective	Global health (overarching)
IAS	2014	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
Milko	2014	Canada	Mixed methods	Health Systems Research
Plotnikova	2014	USA	Retrospective	Tobacco Control
Williams	2014	N/A	Conference report	Oncology
IAS	2015	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
van der Rijt	2015	Singapore	Retrospective	Global health (overarching)
IAS	2016	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
IAS	2017	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
Sheikh	2017	India	Opinion Piece	Global health (overarching)
Science-Metrix Inc.	2017	Canada	Conference report	Health Systems Research
IAS	2018	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
Hawkes	2018	United Kingdom	Opinion Piece	Global health (overarching), gender equity, health systems
Pai	2018	Canada	Opinion piece	Infectious diseases
Plotnikova	2018	USA	Retrospective	Tobacco Control
Arend	2019	South Africa	Retrospective	Emergency medicine / critical care
Fisher	2019	Australia	Conference report	Mental health
George	2019	N/A*	Opinion piece	Global health (overarching)
Gomez-DeLeon	2019	N/A	Retrospective	Hematology
IAS	2019	N/A	Conference report	HIV/AIDS
Khalek	2019	Egypt	Descriptive	Oncology
Macarayan	2019	USA	Retrospective	Health Systems Research
O'Neil	2019	Switzerland	Conference report	Health Systems Research
Sidney	2019	Cameroon	Opinion piece	Global health (overarching)
Vervoort	2019	Belgium	Opinion piece	Global health (overarching)

N/A=Not applicable. IAS=International AIDS Society. WHO=World Health Organization.
*Writes on behalf of organizations IAS and Health Systems Global respectively.

Appendix 4. Characteristics of the global health conferences described in included articles.

Author, Publication year	Conference name(s)	Year(s) of conference(s)	Global health field	Host country (n)	Host country World bank Category (n)	Number of attendees (n)	Number of countries represented	% of LMIC delegation
Williams	The AORTIC International Conference on Cancer in Africa	1983, 1985, 1989, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013	Oncology	Togo, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Senegal, South Africa (2), Tanzania, Egypt	LIC (3) MIC (6)	2,585	N/A	N/A
ASTMH	American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene Annual Meeting	1991–2010	Infectious diseases	USA	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
Strasser	The First International Conference on Rural Medicine	1996	Rural health	China	MIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
IAS	The 11th International AIDS Conference	1996	HIV/AIDS	Canada	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
Abdool Karim	The 13th International AIDS Conference	2000	HIV/AIDS	South Africa	MIC	12,500	160	N/A
James	The 14th International AIDS Conference 2002	2002	HIV/AIDS	Spain	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
Alsirafy	Word Congress of Psycho-Oncology, 7th and 8th edition	2004, 2006	Oncology	Denmark, Italy	HIC (2)	N/A	51**	N/A
IAS	The 15th International AIDS Conference	2004	HIV/AIDS	Thailand	MIC	19,843	160	N/A
Masmoudi	American Society of Clinical Oncology	2005, 2006, 2007	Oncology	USA	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A

MacConachy	The 3rd conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment	2005	HIV/AIDS	Brazil	MIC	5,720	120	48%
World Health Organization	Joint FAO/WHO Meeting	2005	Nutrition	Serbia and Montenegro*	MIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
IAS	AIDS 2006 / The 16th International AIDS Conference	2006	HIV/AIDS	Canada	HIC	21,206	187	N/A
Plotnikova	Conference Of the Parties to the WHO Framework Convention of Tobacco Control (1-7)	2006,2007, 2008, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2017	Tobacco control	Switzerland, Thailand, South Africa, Uruguay, South Korea, Russia, India	HIC (3) MIC (4)	N/A	N/A	N/A
IAS	4th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment	2007	HIV/AIDS	Australia	HIC	5,476	140	N/A
Singh	AIDS 2008 / The 17th International AIDS Conference; 5 th IAS Conference.	2008, 2009	HIV/AIDS	Mexico, South Africa	MIC (2)	19,869	N/A	N/A
IAS	5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment	2009	HIV/AIDS	South Africa	MIC	4,898	125	N/A
Sing	5th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment	2009	HIV/AIDS	South Africa	MIC	14,863	N/A	African delegates represented 32%
van der Rijt	Global Health Council	2009, 2010, 2011	Global health (overarching)	USA	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
	World Health Summit	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012	Global health (overarching)	Germany (4)	HIC (4)	N/A	N/A	N/A

	International Association of Public Health Institutes	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012	Global health (overarching)	South Africa (1) USA (1) Finland (1) Mexico (1)	HIC (2) MIC (2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
	The Pacific Health Summit	2009, 2010, 2011, 2012	Global health (overarching)	UK/USA	HIC (2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
IAS	AIDS 2010, The 18th International AIDS Conference	2010	HIV/AIDS	Austria	HIC	13,841	190	N/A
van der Rijt	The World Conference on Social Determinants of Health	2011	Global health (overarching)	Brazil	MIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
Deckelbaum	Bethune Round Table	2011	Global Surgery	Canada	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
IAS	6th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis and Treatment	2011	HIV/AIDS	Italy	HIC	5,441	127	N/A
Rodriguez-Morales	International Congress on Infectious Diseases	2012	Infectious diseases	Thailand	MIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
	International Congress of Chemotherapy	2011	Infectious diseases	Italy	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
	CCEI	2011	Infectious diseases	Colombia	MIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
	JNI	2011	Infectious diseases	Venezuela	MIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
van der Rijt	The Second Global Symposium on Health Systems Research	2012	Global health (overarching)	China	MIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
IAS	AIDS 2012 / The 19th International AIDS Conference	2012	HIV/AIDS	USA	HIC	17,066	176	28%
Milko	Health Systems Research Conference 2012	2012	Health Systems	China	MIC	1,600	100	38%

IAS	7th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention	2013	HIV/AIDS	Malaysia	MIC	3,609	132	45%
IAS	AIDS 2014 / The 20th International AIDS Conference	2014	HIV/AIDS	Australia	HIC	9,826	172	32%
IAS	8th IAS Conference on HIV Pathogenesis, Treatment and Prevention	2015	HIV/AIDS	Canada	HIC	4,885	113	28%
Arend	African Conference on Emergency Medicine 2016	2016	Emergency medicine / critical care	Egypt, U.S (4), New Zealand (2), Canada (2), Austria, South Africa, Iceland, Sri Lanka, Germany, U.K, Italy, Belgium, Wales, Slovenia	HIC (15) MIC (3)	N/A	N/A	N/A
	American College of Emergency Physicians Scientific Assembly 2016							
	Australasian College of Emergency Medicine Annual Scientific Meeting 2016							
	Canadian Association of Emergency Physician							
	European Society of Emergency Medicine Congress 2016							
	International Congress on Emergency medicine							

	Paramedics Australasia International Conference 2016							
	Resuscitation 2016							
	Sri Lanka 2016 Developing Emergency Medicine							
Macarayan	Health Systems Research Conference	2016, 2018	Health Systems	Canada, UK	HIC (2)	4,309	N/A	N/A
IAS	AIDS 2016 / The XXI International AIDS Conference	2016	HIV/AIDS	South Africa	MIC	13,065	155	62%
Science-Metrix Inc.	Health Systems Research Conference	2016	Health Systems	Canada	HIC	2,062	101	N/A
IAS	9th IAS Conference on HIV Science	2017	HIV/AIDS	France	HIC	6,277	141	25-35%
Fisher	The International Marcé Society for Perinatal Mental Health	2018	Mental health	India	MIC	630	31	N/A
Gomez-DeLeon	American Society of Hematology Conference	2018	Hematology	U.S	HIC	>25,000	N/A	N/A
IAS	AIDS 2018 / XXII International AIDS Conference	2018	HIV/AIDS	Netherlands	HIC	14,203	175	45%
O'Neil et al.	Fifth Global Symposium on Health Systems Research 2018	2018	Health Systems	UK	HIC	2,247	N/A	44%
Hawkes	Women Leaders in Global Health	2018	Gender Equity, Global Health (overarching),	UK	HIC	3,147	N/A	N/A

	Global Symposium on Health Systems	2018	Health Systems	UK	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
IAS	The 10th IAS Conference on HIV Science	2019	HIV/AIDS	Mexico	MIC	4,941	129	36%
Khalek	The 13th African Continental Meeting of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology	2019	Oncology	Egypt	MIC	629	37	N/A
Sidney	World Health Assembly	2019	Global Health (overarching)	Switzerland	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
Vervoort	UN General Assembly	2019	Global Health (overarching)	USA	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A
	World Health Assembly	2019	Global Health (overarching)	Switzerland	HIC	N/A	N/A	N/A