In an increasingly integrated and globalised world characterized by, among other things, new cross-border threats to health, widening disparities in health and access to health care and an unacceptable level of human suffering and premature mortality in developing countries, civil society actors are asking ‘why is so little progress being made’?

Like its critically-acclaimed predecessor, *Global Health Watch 2* covers a comprehensive range of health topics, including access to medicines, mental health, water and sanitation, nutrition, and war and conflict.

Unlike other reports on global health, it also draws attention to the politics of global health and the policies and actions of key actors. Hence chapters on official aid programmes, including a dedicated chapter on the United States foreign assistance programme for global health; the Gates Foundation; the World Bank; and the Global Fund; and the World Health Organisation.

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### About GLOBAL HEALTH WATCH

*Global Health Watch* is a collaboration of leading popular movements and nongovernmental organizations comprising civil society activists, community groups, health workers and academics. It has compiled this second edition of its alternative world health report - a hard-hitting, evidence-based analysis of the political economy of health and health care - as a challenge to the major global bodies that influence health. Its monitoring of institutions including the World Bank, the World Health Organization and UNICEF reveals that while some important initiatives are being taken, much more needs to be done to have any hope of meeting the UN’s health-related Millennium Development Goals.